The Orchadian

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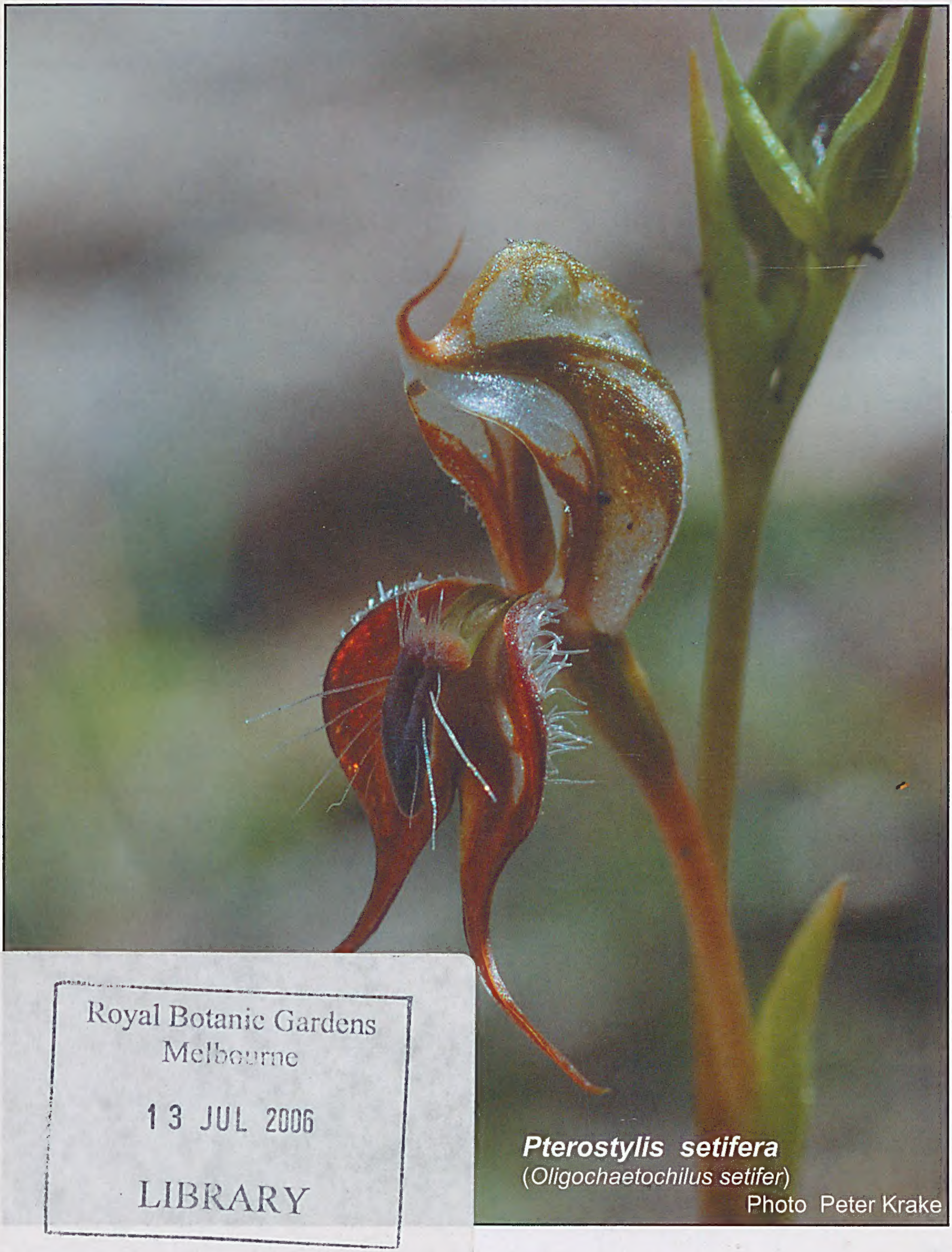
Official Journal of the Australasian Native Orchid Society



Pterostylis setifera
(*Oligochaetochilus setifer*)
Photo Peter Krake

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The Orchadian

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Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Native Orchid Society Inc.

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of ANOS Inc. will be held at the Gosford RSL Club at 10.00am on Saturday 5th August, 2006.

Any Group or individual member who has matters to be included on the agenda, along with any nominations for positions on Council, should have these with the Secretary no latter than one week prior to the AGM.
Send these items to:
The Secretary,
ANOS Inc.
PO Box 318, Willoughby, 2068

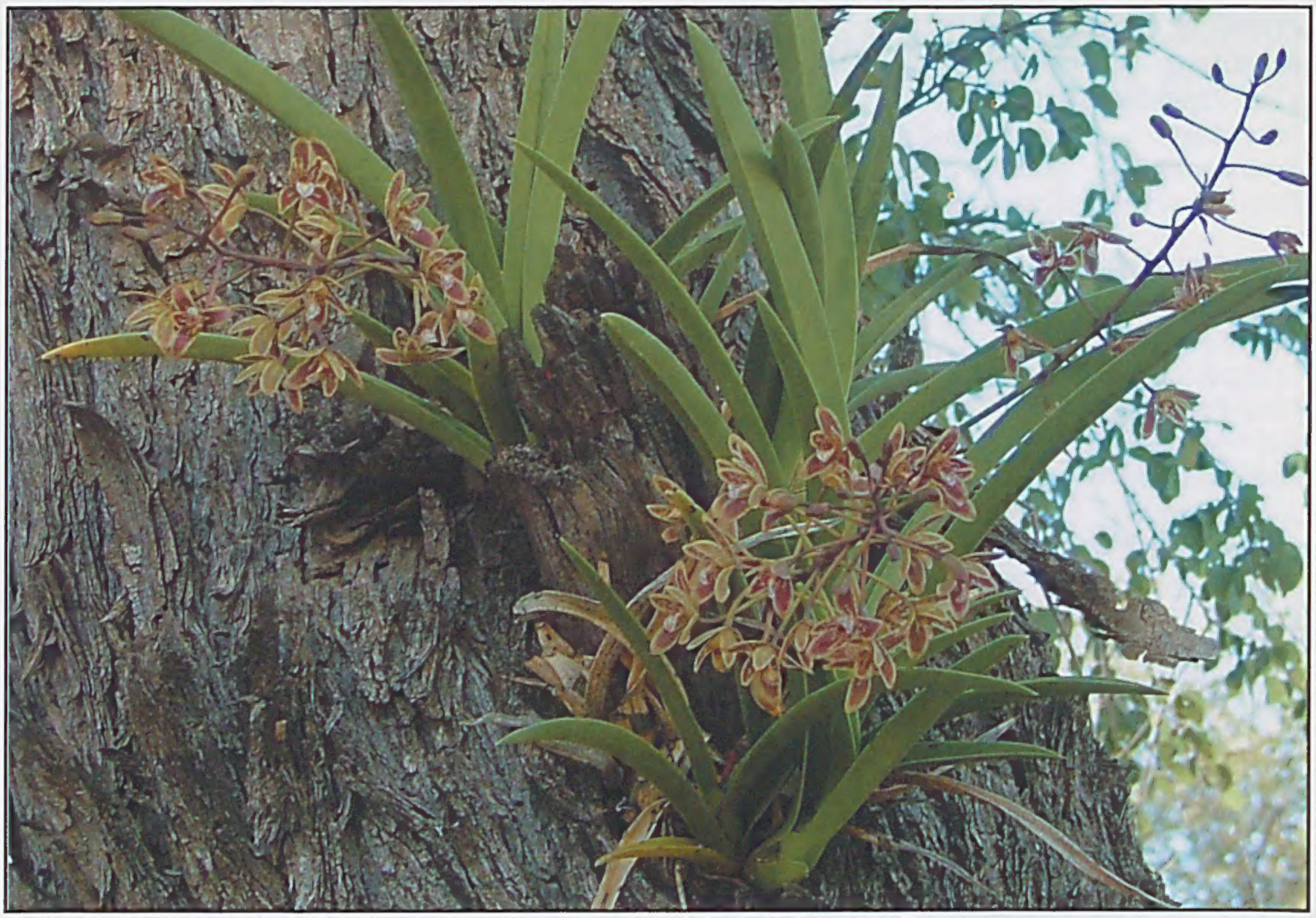
Renewal Reminder

Renewals are now due for 01.07.06 to 30.06.07.

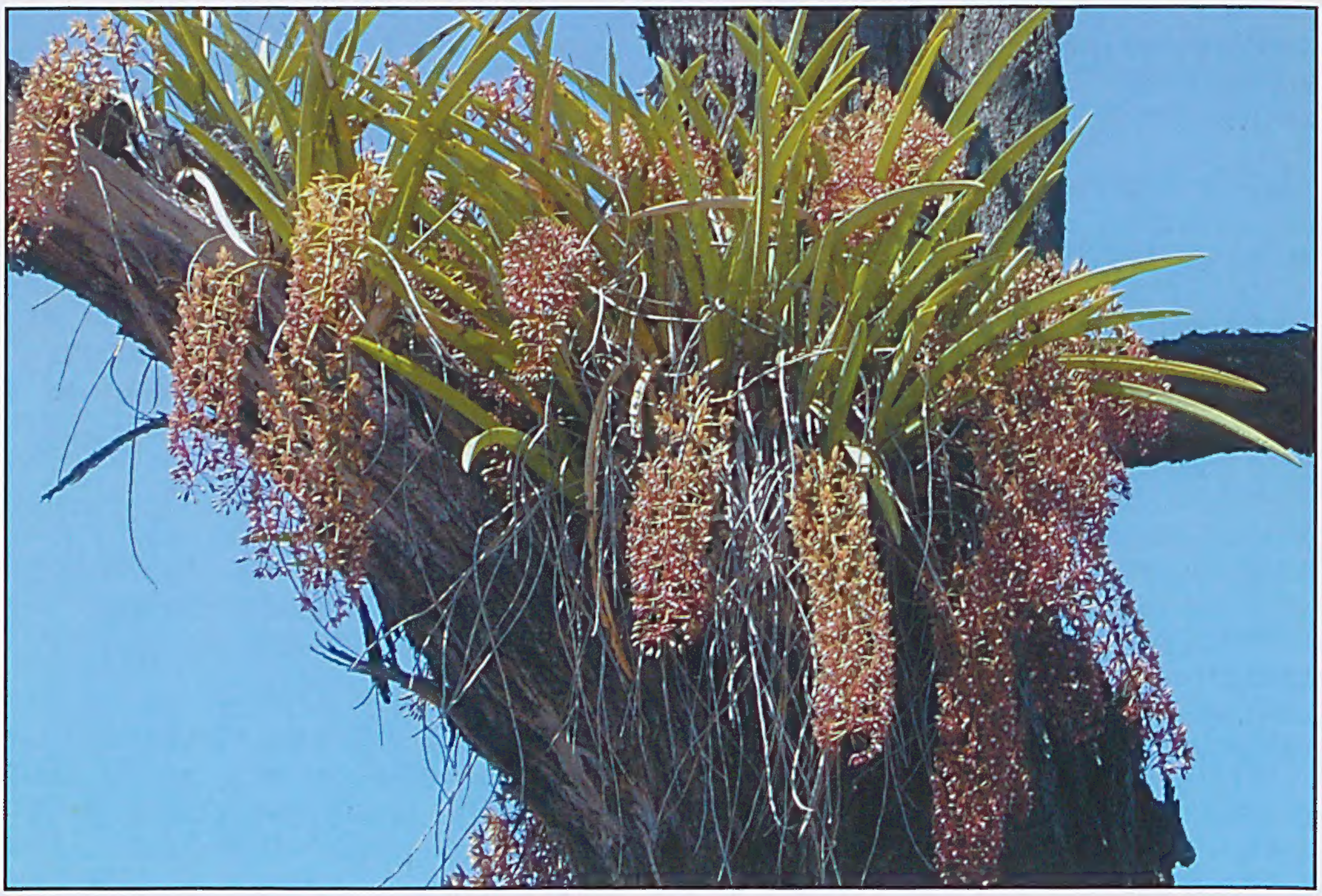
If your address label is showing 06 and not 07 then according to our records we have not received your renewal.

Subscribers will receive a reminder in August. If your renewal is not received by August 31st 2006, then this will be your last issue.

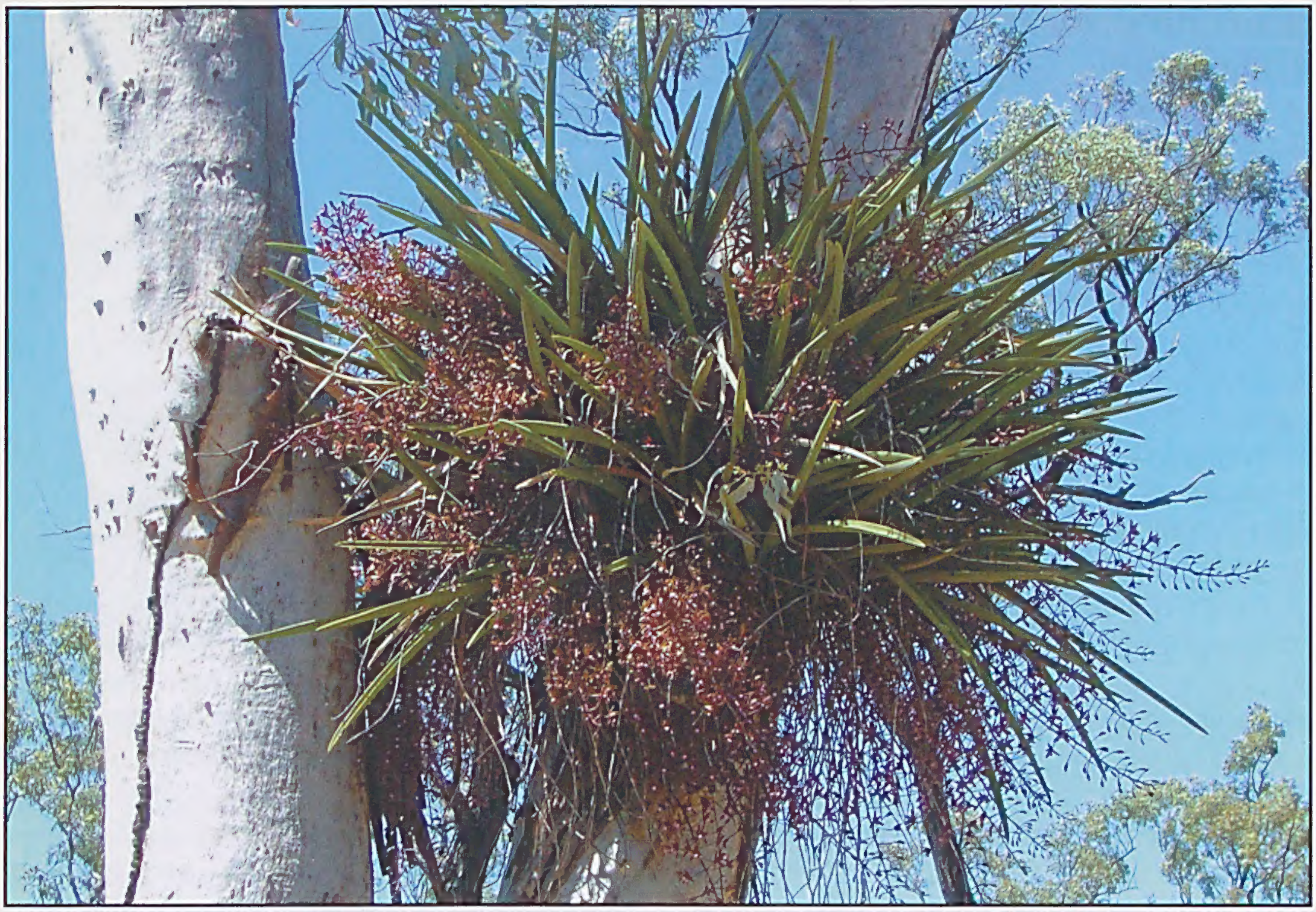
There should be a renewal form in this issue if you are not financial.



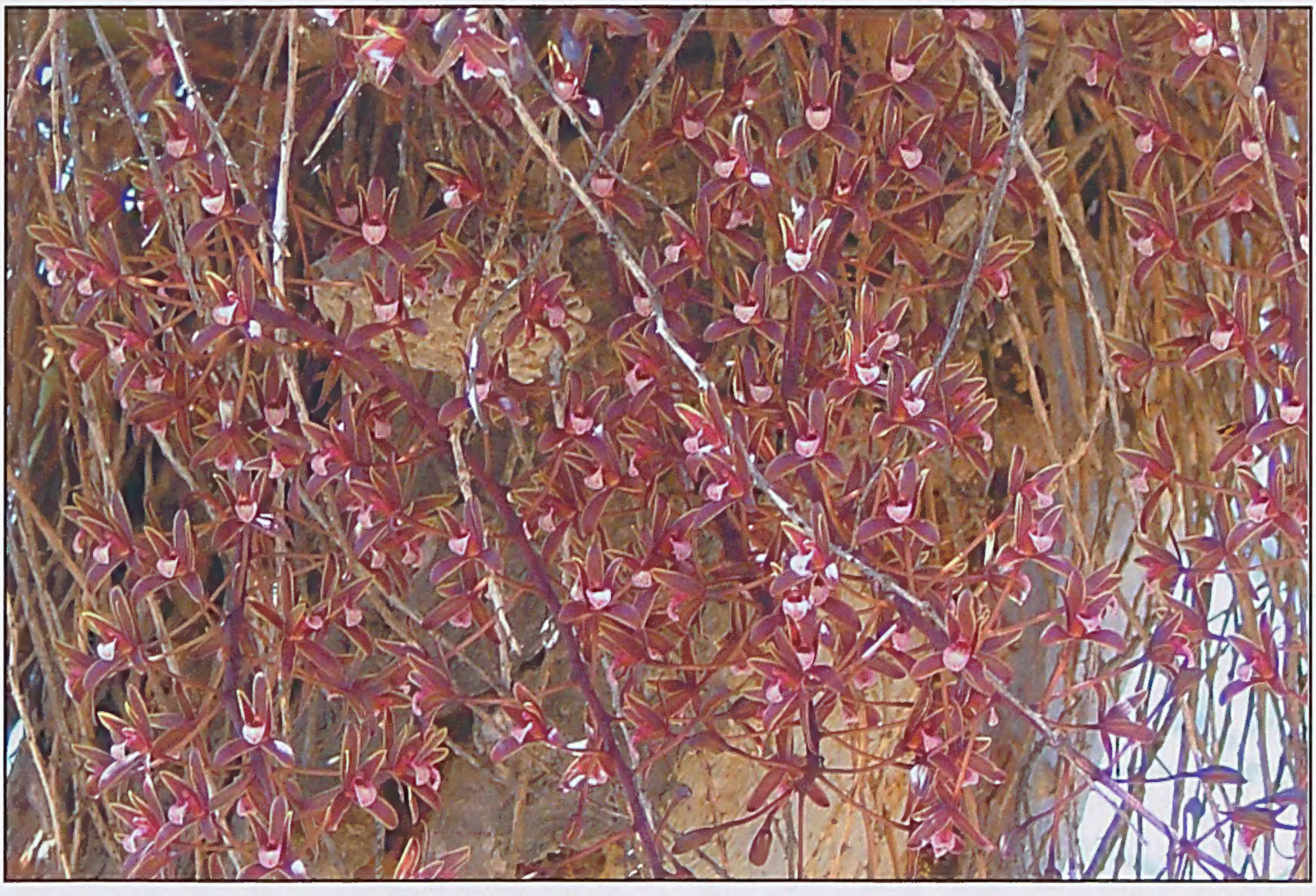
Cymbidium canaliculatum, growing southwest of Blackall, near Emmet.



Cymbidium canaliculatum, Blackbreas National Park - north of Hughenden.



Cymbidium canaliculatum, growing at Lyndhurst Station, North Queensland.



Close-up of the above orchid showing the brown-red flowers with the light margins around the petals and sepals.

Photos Roger Herraman

Vale – Ronald George Tunstall (1950-2005)

Ron Tunstall was born at Wollongong and grew up in the Illawarra district of New South Wales where he developed a keen interest in natural history. He studied at university to become a teacher and worked in the Illawarra until he retired, except for a short period in Sydney and about two years teaching in Papua New Guinea. On retirement he moved to Wauchope in the Hastings area of the mid north coast of New South Wales. Ron was fiercely loyal to anything pertaining to the Illawarra area and after retirement extended this loyalty to include Wauchope and the Hastings area.

Ron was a dedicated naturalist who was blessed with a discerning eye. Although he was interested in a wide range of plant and animal groups, native orchids were his primary focus and he travelled far and wide over Australia to see them in their natural habitat. Ron was also a keen photographer and he amassed a prodigious collection of slides taken not only in the wild but also in private collections and at orchid society meetings.

Ron was a true character of the orchid world. His personality was intense, sometimes off-putting and he was dogmatic and persistent in pursuit of a goal. Once on a subject he pursued it to the end, considering all possibilities and compiling detailed lists of queries that needed to be answered before he was satisfied. His persistence is well exemplified in his pursuit of knowledge about the type localities of native orchids and which species was the best fit for any taxon. Detailed consideration of the manuscripts of early botanists was often followed up by trips to the area looking at the range of species growing there and making decisions about which taxa were the best fit. This would then be followed by discussions with botanists, whom he regularly challenged about their views, and he was often right. Once into a particular group of orchids he followed up all leads, no matter how tenuous. Over the years he became a valuable mine of information which he imparted freely to others.

Ron discovered numerous new orchid species during his travels and he was instrumental in making many collections for the herbarium at Canberra, some of which have been used as types. One species, *Bunochilus* (*Pterostylis*) *tunstalli*, has been named in his honour and a *Diuris* that he found recently will also be named after him. Ron had an unusual species concept and believed that there are numerous unnamed species out there that the botanists have overlooked. One could say he was the ultimate "splitter" but then again he did find many new species and with modern molecular studies turning up genetic anomalies in what appear to be well established species, perhaps he was correct.

Ron Tunstall died suddenly in the John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle on 29th October 2005. Ron's legacy will endure in his slides, the specimens he collected for CANB, in the memory of his friends and especially in his legacy of leaving his estate to the AOF to promote and conserve his beloved native orchids. He will be missed.

David Jones John & Judy Riley
Graeme Bradburn

James (Jim) Boughtwood Comber (1929-2005)

Australian orchid-lovers will be saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Jim Comber at his home in Southhampton, England. Determined to pursue a horticultural career, like his famous father and grandfather before him, he enrolled as a trainee at Kew in 1951 and completed the course in 1955. During this period he performed National Service, including an interval in Singapore, which nurtured his life-long love of South-east Asia and its flora, particularly orchids.

After graduation from Kew, Jim went to manage a rubber plantation for Anglo-Indonesian Plantations near Tenom in British North Borneo (now Sabah). He left there in 1971 to take a similar posting at Medan in Sumatra. In 1974 he accepted a position with Ciba-Geigy based in Jakarta. Being near Bogor he was able to make good use of the botanic garden (Kabun Raya) and Herbarium Bogoriense. He was later transferred to Surabaya, where he stayed until 1984. His first-class photographs and his extensive herbarium of pressings were built up during this period as he made wide-ranging excursions throughout Java discovering many new orchids. *Sarcoglyphis comberi* J.J.Wood honours his name. In 1981 he published *Wayside Orchids of South-east Asia*.

In 1984 Jim was transferred to Thailand to run Ciba-Geigy's business there. During his time there, while continuing his orchid research, he prepared his authoritative and beautifully illustrated book, *Orchids of Java*.

On his retirement in 1991, to Southampton, he was appointed Research Associate by Kew. As a regular visitor there he was able to complete *Orchids of Sumatra* in 2001.

His photographs and articles have appeared in many journals over the years, and have established him as an eminent authority on Indonesian orchids. He was most generous with his photographs, lending them to fellow botanists and editors.

I first met Jim Comber at the Fifth Asian Orchid Congress held in Singapore in August 1984. It was natural that we should discuss orchids common to Java and Australia, and we entertained the idea of publishing a list with pertinent remarks. To this end we exchanged notes and photographs for some time. I did not see Jim again until 1998, when, at my suggestion he came to Townsville to speak at the Sixth Asia Pacific Orchid Conference, on 'Orchids common to Java/Sumatra and Australia' (see *Proceedings*, pp. 41-5).

Jim was a talented photographer, a careful taxonomist, and a good friend and above all, a gentleman. He is survived by his wife Riam, their son John, and their daughter, Elizabeth.

L.J. Lawler
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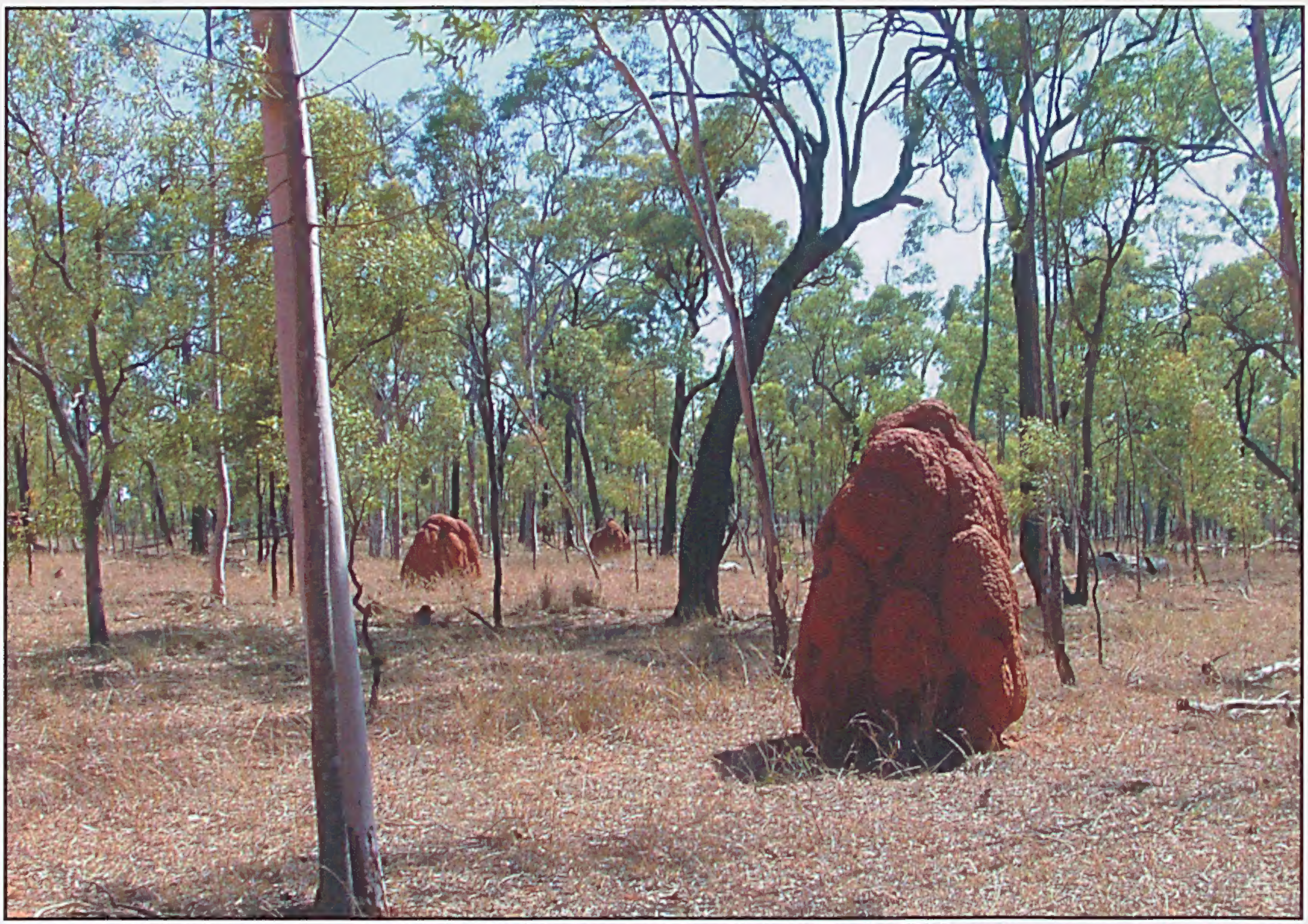
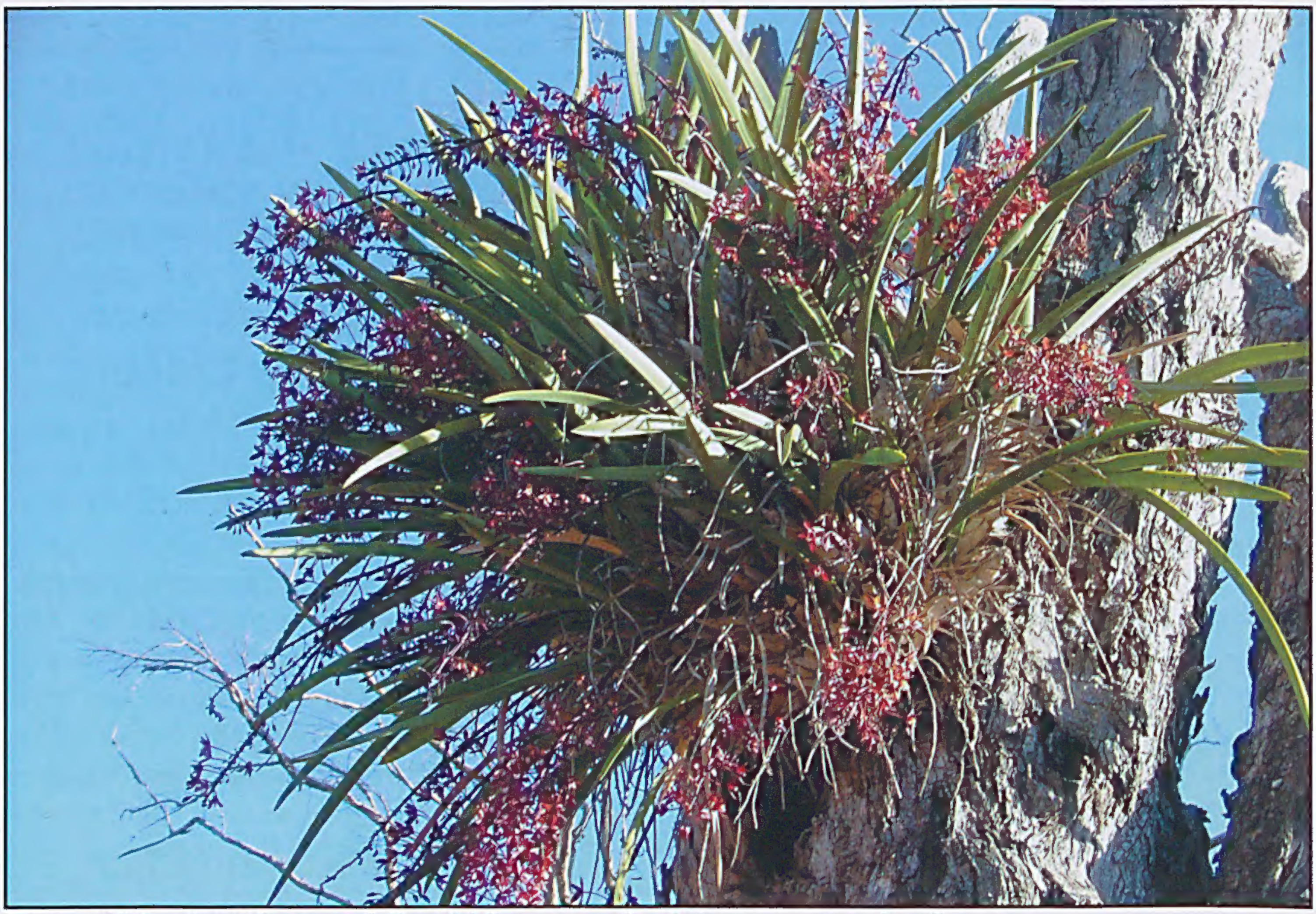


Typical *Cymbidium canaliculatum* habitat near Chudleigh Park, Qld.



Some of the best forms of *Cymbidium canaliculatum* var. *sparkesii* near Innot Hot Springs.

Photos Roger Herraman

Looking for *Cymbidium canaliculatum* var. '*sparkesii*'.

Roger Herraman
Adelaide
herraman@iimetro.com.au

After a successful journey looking for and finding *Cymbidium canaliculatum* in the wild in June 2004,(*The Orchadian*, Volume 14, No.11, page 511), I declared to myself that if ever I had the opportunity to venture further north into Queensland to see the dark red '*sparkesii*' forms I would do so.

Well, that opportunity presented itself to me last year (2005) and this time I had the luxury of choosing what time of the year to go. Obviously, I wanted to select a period of the year when they would be flowering. My next task was to contact several orchid growers in northern Queensland who could help me settle on an optimum time to see these orchids in full bloom. In Adelaide, my '*sparkesii*' plants begin to flower around early November and continue through to just after Christmas. I knew that they would flower much earlier in their natural habitat but did not know exactly when. I was advised that the best time would be from mid to late September into early October.

So, in mid September I was off again on a quest to find, enjoy, appreciate and photograph this beautiful northern orchid, hopefully in full bloom, in country that I had never been to before and knew little about.

I followed the same route as before to Charleville but instead of heading east, this time I continued north through Augathella, Tambo and Blackall. The first *C. canaliculatum* plants I encountered were near the banks of the Barcoo River about midway between Tambo and Blackall and to my relief, they were in full bloom. They were a predominantly brown colour with minor yellow markings.

Having been told that *C. canaliculatum* can be found even further west than Blackall, I decided to follow the Windorah road south west from Blackall to see for myself. I observed a number of plants along this road to as far as Emmet. The plants really 'do it tough' out there with low rainfall and high temperatures (it was 35°C that day in mid September) for a large part of the year. Flower colour and shape was similar to the first ones I saw but the plants themselves were nowhere near as lush and vigorous, obviously due to the much harsher environment. This is open cattle range country, relatively flat with wide intersecting creeks and fairly well vegetated.

North of Blackall, the Landsborough Highway crosses Douglas Ponds Creek where many massive specimens could be seen high in the eucalypts within the parking bay area. They were all in flower and provided a magnificent spectacle to those passers-by who took the time to notice and appreciate them.

I chose to follow the Aramac to Torrens Creek road believing there would be plenty of *C. canaliculatum* to see along the way, but to my surprise and disappointment, I did not see any at all. The northern half of this road basically consists of two deep wheel ruts made by Road Trains and is difficult to traverse due to the height of the central ridge. This route is certainly not for the new family sedan.

Being a backyard amateur grower with a strong interest in this species, I had often wondered whether there may be something like a transitional area in Queensland where the two varieties (i.e. the northern '*sparkesii*' form and the southern mottled green/brown form) might come together. The area north of Hughenden towards the Lynd Junction probably demonstrates this transition reasonably well.

Travelling north from Hughenden, the flowers become appreciably darker in colour, although they seemed to me to still be a brown colour rather than a deep red. Plants in the Blackbraes National Park area are a solid dark brown/red with a distinctive light margin around the petals and sepals. Further north, towards the Forty Mile Scrub National Park and Mount Garnet, the plants become more of a genuine deep red colour. Northwards towards Atherton I noticed that all plants were of a more consistent blood red.

The countryside on this section of the journey was quite an eye-opener for me. The vegetation, although not sparse, was by no means dense either. Scattered eucalypts and other shrubs dotted the slightly undulating landscape with almost as many termite mounds, approximately two metres in height, as there were trees. It seemed to me as though it had not rained for a considerable time as the country was extremely dry in appearance. The Chudleigh Park to Lyndhurst section of this road presented very different scenery to what I had ever seen before.

I had previously decided to spend at least four to five days in an area where I could make day trips out to potential locations from a central town. I chose to stay in Atherton as this appeared to be the most centrally located to the places I wanted to visit.

The area west of Mareeba along the Burke Developmental Road proved to be well colonised with '*sparkesii*' forms. Some excellent very dark clones were noticed north of Dimbulah (Mt. Mulligan-Wolfram Camp area). I travelled as far west as Rookwood with many large plants seen in Box and Ironbark trees. Again, the further west I travelled the more the plants seemed to be struggling for their existence. Individual plants became smaller with correspondingly shorter spikes and less attractive flowers. The country here is quite undulating and thickly vegetated but showing all the signs of a prolonged dry spell. This is an extremely fascinating area to anyone interested in the mining history of Far North Queensland. Many of the small towns in the region owe their origins to rich mineral deposits discovered in the 19th century. The township of Chillagoe has preserved several old mining sites with marble still being actively mined nearby.

The next area to inspect was along the main inland road to Cooktown through Mt. Carbine and Lakeland Downs. Although I observed many large healthy plants along the way, they seemed to occur more sporadically obviously preferring certain host trees and environment. Flowers, although still very dark in colour were noticeably smaller in size in this region with an almost solid deep pink lip. The road is currently in the final stages of being sealed all the way to Cooktown. This should make the journey to this interesting historic town more comfortable and dust-free than it has been in the past.

Some of the best examples of this beautiful northern form of *C. canaliculatum* were observed in the areas surrounding the old Tin mining town of Innot Hot Springs. Plants here were extremely large and healthy. The flower colour varied on different plants with some showing the fine cream margin whilst others were a solid deep blood red. I also observed that in this particular area the labellum colour varied quite significantly. Some plants had an almost white lip with fine deep pink spotting whilst others displayed a more solid pink colouring. Unfortunately, this area is subject to regular grass burning so many of the plants here show signs of fire damage. However they seem to recover very quickly when the 'wet season' begins.

After seeing as many bush examples of '*sparkesii*' as I could in the time I had available, it was time to head south again. I followed the Gregory Developmental Road from Charters Towers to Emerald. This is an excellent sealed road for anyone travelling to or from North Queensland and wanting to avoid the busy coastal highway. It is also excellent for viewing *C. canaliculatum* in the wild. Dozens of plants may be observed within metres of the road high up in mainly Grey Box trees. It was extremely pleasing to see so many magnificent specimens, obviously enjoying their environment and flowering so profusely. Being much further south, these flowers were more of a mid-brown with cream to yellow patterning on the petals and sepals.

Another interesting spot on the way home was the Springsure-Rolleston region in central Queensland. I did actually pass through this area on my previous trip but noticed very few plants. This time, being more observant and knowing exactly what to look for, I saw many more examples. The *C. canaliculatum* flowers in this area are mainly chocolate brown in colour with yellow markings. Many plants can be seen growing in burnt out tree stumps approximately one to two metres above the ground. One observation I did make in this area was that most plants appeared to be growing on the eastern side of the trees, possibly gaining a little protection from the fierce afternoon sunlight.

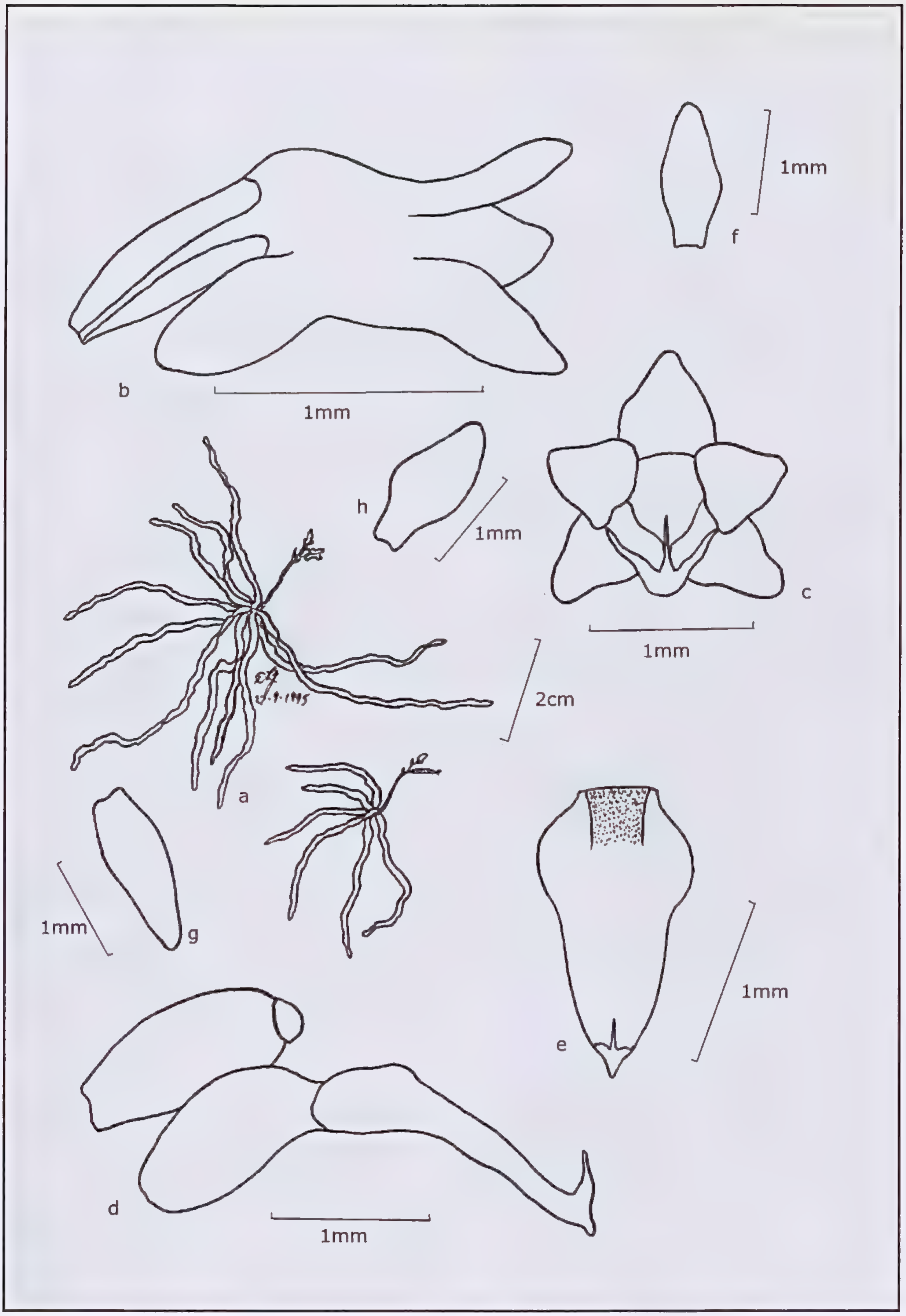
A little further south I visited a friend at Amby, west of Roma, who showed me many fine examples in various areas north of the town. This particular region is still being subjected to land clearing for the purpose of cattle grazing. We were able to salvage a few plants from felled Cypress pines prior to stacking and burning. These plants were the typical mottled brown/green form but with much smaller pseudobulbs than the northern clones.

I believe I have now acquired a much better understanding of these plants and how to grow them more successfully. It never ceases to amaze me just how resilient, hardy and variable this species is. I saw trees which had clearly been dead for many years, yet large plants of *C. canaliculatum* were still growing vigorously and flowering profusely.

Although *Cymbidium canaliculatum* is found across the far north of the continent, I have never seen examples from the Northern Territory or Western Australia. I would be extremely interested in hearing from anyone who may be growing plants from these states or who has observed them in their natural habitat.

My sincere thanks must go to those people who willingly gave up their time to accompany and guide me to many areas of interest. Without their valuable assistance and 'local knowledge', I would not have been able to gain the full enjoyment and appreciation of this beautiful species in its natural habitat.

-oOo-



Caption

Fig. 1. *Taeniophyllum norfolkianum*, Norfolk Island. a. plants (from Hoogland 11-168); b. flower from side; c. flower from front; d. labellum and column from side; e. labellum from above; f. dorsal sepal; g; lateral sepal; h. petal (b-g from M. Christian *s.n.*).

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum (Orchidaceae), a new species from Norfolk Island.

D.L.Jones* and B.Gray#
Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Australian National Herbarium, G.P.O. Box 1600,
Canberra, 2601, Australian Capital Terrtitory, Australia.
# Forest Research Institute, G.P.O. Box 780, Atherton, Queensland, 4883, Australia.

Abstract

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum, from Norfolk Island, is described as new and illustrated.

Key Words

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum, new species, flora, Norfolk Island.

Introduction

The Norfolk Island species of *Taeniophyllum* was included as *T. muelleri* Lindley ex Benth. in the treatment of the island's flora (Green 1994). In 1995 a flowering specimen was sent to David Jones from Norfolk Island by Margaret Christian. This specimen was dissected, a drawing prepared and subsequently detailed comparisons were made with Australian species of *Taeniophyllum*, particularly *T. muelleri*. The species was found to be distinct and it is here described as new.

Taxonomy

Taeniophyllum norfolkianum D.L.Jones, B.Gray & M.A.Clem., ***sp. nov***.; affinis *T. muelleri* Lindley ex Benth., sed radicibus relative condensis (1–2 mm diam.); floribus minoribus, pinguibus, olivinis; labello obscure trilobo, appendice apicali relative condenses, erecto; capsulis laevibus, majoribus (6–6.5 mm longis), differt.

Type: Norfolk Island, NE slopes of Mt Bates, ridge above Bird Rock, 24 Oct. 1967, *R.D.Hoogland 11.168* (holo CANB 175400).

Leafless *epiphytic herb*. *Plants* single. *Roots* appressed to the host, spreading, round in cross-section, 15-60 mm long, 1-2 mm wide, pale green. *Stems* c. 1 mm long. *Racemes* 8-25 mm long, erect, increasing in length as flowering progresses, 5-12-flowered; buds, open flowers and capsules sometimes present simultaneously; peduncle filiform, glabrous; rhachis slightly flexuose, with projecting bracts. *Flowers* opening singly, tubular at the base with spreading tips, c. 2.2 mm long, c. 1.5 mm wide, appearing plump, olive green. *Sepals* and *petals* fleshy, spreading in the distal half. *Dorsal sepal* porrect, narrowly ovate, c. 1.5 mm long, c. 0.6 mm wide. *Lateral sepals* porrect, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, c. 1.5 mm long, c. 0.6 mm wide. *Petals* narrowly ovate, c. 1.3 mm long, c. 0.7 mm wide. *Labellum* porrect; lamina cymbiform, c. 1.6 mm long, c. 1 mm wide, obscurely 3-lobed; lateral lobes rounded, c. 0.3 mm wide; midlobe tapered, with a substantial, erect, acuminate apical appendage c. 0.3 mm long; spur more or less parallel with the ovary, ellipsoid, c. 1.3 mm long. *Column* c. 1.3 mm long. *Stelidia* short, pointed. *Anther cap* shortly rostrate. *Pollinia* 4, in 2 unequal sized pairs, orange. *Stipes* vestigial. *Viscidium* ovate. Stigma sunken. *Capsules* narrowly ellipsoid, c. 6-6.5 mm long, smooth. **Fig. 1.**

Distribution and Ecology

Endemic on Norfolk Island. This species is apparently restricted to Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) as a host and occurs on trees growing on slopes and shady gullies in closed forest. It has been recorded growing on the lower trunks of large trees and has also been found on relatively young leafy branches brought down during storms. Altitude: 200-300 m alt. Flowering: August to October.

Recognition

The main distinguishing features of this species are plants remaining single (not forming clonal colonies) with relatively thick roots (1-2 mm wide) that are round in cross section, short, thread-like racemes, small, tubular, relatively plump olive green flowers, an obscurely 3-lobed labellum with an erect, substantial apical appendage, and large (6-6.5 mm long) smooth capsules. The new species is probably most similar to *T. muelleri* from eastern Australia which usually forms colonies of plants connected by root tip proliferation and has narrower roots (0.6-1 mm wide), yellowish-green, narrower flowers, unlobed labellum with a filiform retrorse apical appendage and smaller (3.5-5 mm long), verrucose capsules. In addition the labellum spur of *T. norfolkianum* is more or less continuous with the labellum lamina whereas the spur of *T. muelleri* is at a steep angle to the lamina.

Notes

This tiny epiphyte is highly localised and rarely seen. Its ability to colonise the relatively young growths of Norfolk Island Pine is interesting.

Conservation Status

Of restricted distribution but poorly known and in need of detailed surveys to determine its conservation status; conserved in Norfolk Island National Park. Of concern for its conservation is the severe dieback of its host, *Araucaria heterophylla*, which results in decline and death of the trees. Estimates suggest that more than half of the mature *Araucaria* trees on Norfolk Island are either dead or in decline (see Benson 1980, Green 1994).

Etymology

The specific epithet alludes to Norfolk Island.

Other Specimens

Norfolk Island: Bird Rock track, c. 1 km NNE of Mt Bates, 26 Oct. 1978, *I.R.Telford 7125* (CBG 7810254); S of Mt Bates Track, rat bait station F.19, 15 Nov. 1996, *P.D.Zeising 349* (CANB 616542).

Acknowledgements

We thank Laurie Adams for the Latin diagnosis and Margaret Christian for supplying a flowering specimen and discussions about the species.

Literature Cited

Benson, M.L. (1980). Dieback of Norfolk Island Pine in its natural environment. *Austral. Forestry* 43: 245-252.

Green, P.S. (1994). Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island. *Flora of Australia* Volume 49, Oceanic Islands 1. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra.

-oOo-

A New Australasian Native Orchid Society Group for Melbourne.

ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Group was formed in June 2005. The President of ANOS Council, Graham Slater, and Secretary Irene Bodell, visited on 23rd October and welcomed the new society. The President is Peter Adams, and Treasurer David Brewster. Enquiries should be directed to the Secretary, Margaret Elgood, on Ph. 59622758. Correspondence to ANOS Melbourne Suburbs, PO Box 239 Mt Evelyn Vic. 3796.

The group follows the guidelines and objectives of the Australasian Native Orchid Society Inc., and plants are judged at meetings and shows according to the ANOS Judging Handbook. The Group meets usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Montrose Primary School, Leith Rd., Montrose 3765 (Melways 52 D7). Visitors and new members welcome.

President, Peter Adams.

RHS Registrations of Australian Native Orchid Hybrids

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2005 REGISTRATIONS

DENDROBIUM

Chaotic Gold	*Den.* Ivory x *Den.* Maya's Gold	Down Under N.O.
Golden Arch	*Den. speciosum* x *Den.* Lynette Banks	M.Pham(D.Young)
Hun-Chu 1	*Den.* Peewee x *Den.* Aussie Victory	Down Under N.O.
Jamestown	*Den.* Nugget x *Den. speciosum*	G.J.Zerbe
Marthanna	*Den.* Biddy x *Den.* Kayla	Down Under N.O.
Nightmare	*Den.* Gaudy x *Den.* Ray's Dream	Down Under N.O.
Tweetas	*Den.* [*Doc.*] Tweetie x *Den.* [*Doc.*] *striolatum* [*striolata*]	Down Under N.O.

PLECTOCHILUS

Zelda	*Sarco.* Jeanne x *Plrhz. tridentata*	N.Roper

SARCOCHILUS

Allana	*Sarco.* Star Struck x *Sarco.* Burgundy on Ice	N.Roper
Billie	*Sarco.* Weinhart x *Sarco.* First Light	N.Roper
Crown Jewels	*Sarco.* Marina Harriott x *Sarco.* Royale Ruby	Royale Orch.
Jedda	*Sarco.* Judith x *Sarco.* Redstone	N.Roper
Lyn	*Sarco.* Dove x *Sarco.* Cherie	N.Roper
Magenta	*Sarco.* Fitzhart x *Sarco.* Fairy	N.Roper
Melba Magic	*Sarco.* Melba x *Sarco.* Highton Magic	G.Garrett
Natalie	*Sarco.* Charlotte x *Sarco.* [*Prcls.*] Riverdene	N.Roper
Peter Jackson	*Sarco.* Burgundy on Ice x *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*	Royale Orch. (P.L.Jackson)
Rosie	*Sarco.* [*Prcls.*] Elise x *Sarco.* Dove	N.Roper
Saffron	*Sarco.* Cream Cake x *Sarco.* Snowhart	N.Roper
Zena	*Sarco.* Melba x *Sarco.* Fairy	N.Roper

In checking up on two hybrids in our Checkilist of Australian Native Orchid Hybrids, I came across some hybrids not included, *Sarcochilus* Marina Harriott and *Sarcochilus* Royale Ruby. Doing a search through the RHS web-site I also came up with the following:

SARCOCHILUS March 2005

Little Angel	*Sarco.* Otways Sunset x *Sarco. fitzgeraldii*	D.& L.Brown
Marina Harriott	*Sarco. ceciliae* x *Sarco.* [*Prcls.*] Velvet	Royale Orch.
Royale Red	*Sarco.* Royale Ruby x *Sarco.* Cherie	Royale Orch.
Royale Ruby	*Sarco.* Fitzhart x *Sarco.* Hot Ice	Royale Orch.(S.Batchelor)

RHINOCHILUS March 2005

Capel	*Sarco.* Cherie x *Rhin. divitiflora*	W.Howey(O/U)

Sarcanthopsis (Orchidaceae) newly recorded from Australia.

David L. Jones
Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research, Australian National Herbarium, G.P.O. Box 1600,
Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, 2601, Australia.

Abstract

Sarcanthopsis is newly recorded from Moa (Banks) Island in Torres Strait, which is politically part of Australia. The collected plant was sterile but is probably *S. warocqueana* (Rolfe) Garay.

Introduction

The islands of Torres Strait are politically part of Australia although the northern islands are geographically part of New Guinea. The orchids of the Torres Strait islands, particularly the northern islands close to New Guinea, have not been systematically collected, although some interesting records have been made by visitors. For example Geoff Stocker collected *Dichopus insignis* Blume (*Dendrobium insigne* (Blume) Rchb.f.) from Sabai Island and this remains the only collection of this species from Australian territory. To obtain more detailed information a number of islands were visited in 1989 for the specific purpose of recording their orchid floras in an expedition funded by the Australian Orchid Foundation and organised and led by Bill Lavarack. A detailed report of this trip which includes the species noted or collected was produced by the Queensland Department of Environment and Conservation (Lavarack 1989), with the most notable discovery being *Aporopsis litoralis* (Schltr.) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones (*Dendrobium litorale* Schltr.) on Dauan Island.

A puzzling orchid plant, collected by me as a sterile individual on the Torres Strait expedition, has recently been identified by Mark Clements as a species of *Sarcanthopsis,* probably *S. warocqueana* (Rolfe) Garay, the type of which is a cultivated plant originally collected in New Guinea. The single specimen, collected on Moa Peak, Moa Island, was growing fully exposed to the sun on a large boulder overlooking the sea. The plant was sterile and at the time it was tentatively identified as *Robiquetia gracilistipes*. The plant was pressed and included in the herbarium at CANB. Comparisons with specimens of *Robiquetia gracilistipes* showed that the sterile specimen is not that species but is a plant of *Sarcanthopsis*, this genus being readily recognised by its very broad thick leathery leaves (see attached image).

This represents a new record for Australia and some details are provided here.

Sarcanthopsis warocqueana

A large monopodial orchid which grows on trees and rocks. Plants have erect coarse branching stems to more than 3 m long, with thick, cord-like roots and large, thick, leathery leaves arranged distichously along the stems. The leaves are often yellowish green and have an unevenly notched tip. The flowers, which are borne on branched panicles, are crowded towards the end of each branch. Each flower is about 20 mm across, rounded, scented like vanilla and is cream, yellow or greenish with pink or purple spots. Flowering occurs April-August.

This orchid is a very distinctive species which is widely distributed in New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. In New Guinea it ranges from sea level to about 1000 m alt. and is often prominent in coastal habitats, growing in full sun on rocks and on the branches of trees overhanging the water (O'Byrne 1994).

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Mueller, F.M (1875). *Des. Not. Papuan Pl.* 72-73 (1875).

O.Byrne, P. (1994). *Lowland Orchids of Papua New Guinea*. SNP Publishers, Singapore.

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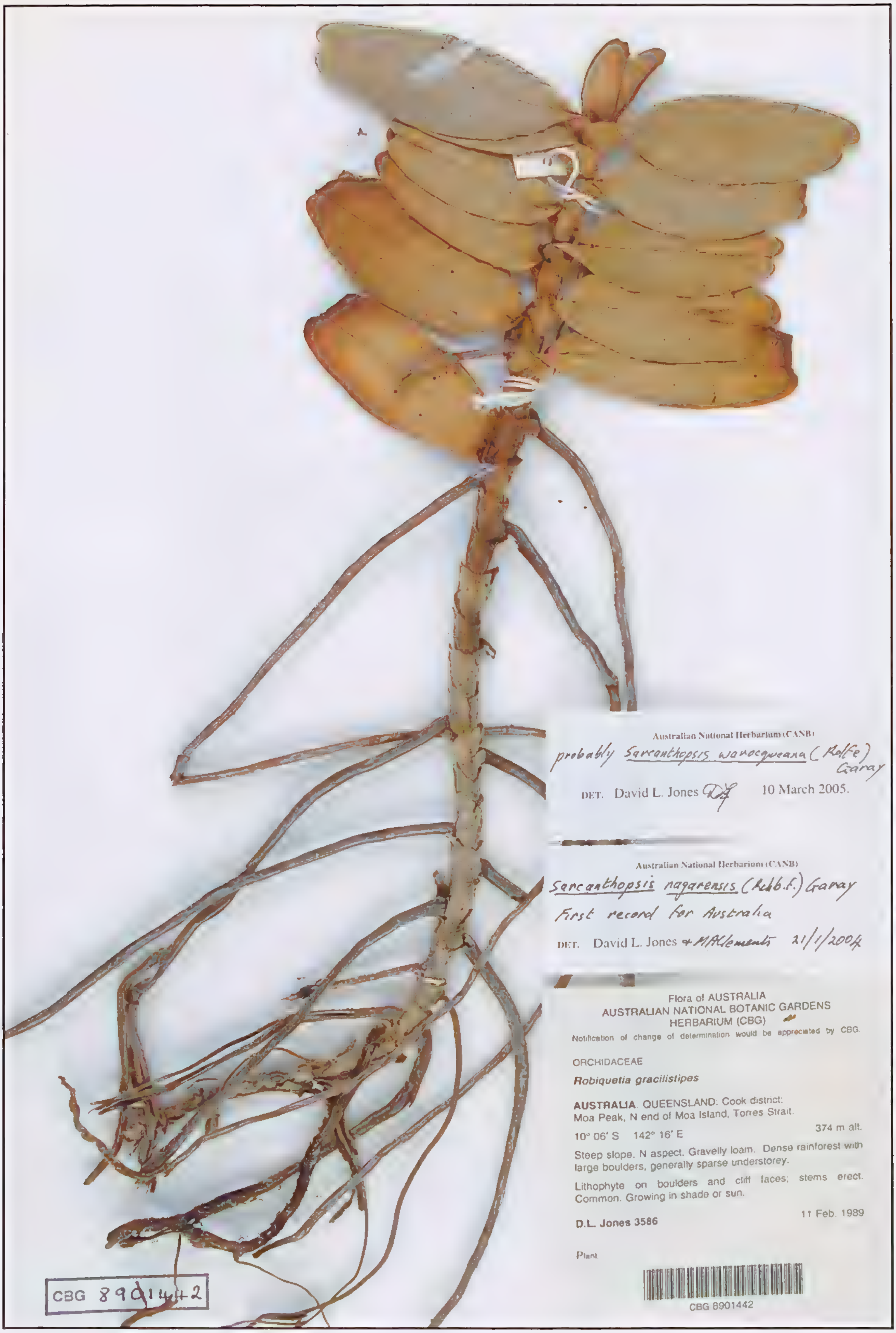

Australian National Herbarium (CANB)

probably Sarcanthopsis warocqueana (Rolfe) Garay

DET. David L. Jones DLJ 10 March 2005.

Australian National Herbarium (CANB)

Sarcanthopsis nagarensis (Rchb.f.) Garay

First record for Australia

DET. David L. Jones + MAClements 21/1/2004

Flora of AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL BOTANIC GARDENS
HERBARIUM (CBG)

Notification of change of determination would be appreciated by CBG.

ORCHIDACEAE

Robiquetia gracilistipes

AUSTRALIA. QUEENSLAND: Cook district:
Moa Peak, N end of Moa Island, Torres Strait.

10° 06′ S 142° 16′ E 374 m alt.

Steep slope. N aspect. Gravelly loam. Dense rainforest with large boulders, generally sparse understorey.

Lithophyte on boulders and cliff faces; stems erect. Common. Growing in shade or sun.

D.L. Jones 3586 11 Feb. 1989

Plant

CBG 8901442

CBG 8901442

Harold Jay, 100 Years Young.

Murray J.G. Corrigan

A foundation member of ANOS, Harold celebrated his 100th birthday on the 27th May 2006, at the Alexander Campbell Hostel, Forestville, Sydney.

Harold joined ANOS as a foundation member in early August 1963, and was elected Hon. Secretary in August 1966 and continued in that position until August 1971. He was a stalwart foundation member of ANOS Sydney Group and he and his wife Evelyn rarely missed a meeting over many happy years.

Harold was born in South Hackney, London on 27th May 1906, to a family of ten children, and travelled with the family to Australia on the SS Mamari arriving in Sydney in January 1911. The family first settled at Edgecombe, near Lithgow, at the top of the first tunnel of the old Zig-Zag railway line. Further moves included Brewongle, then Bankstown in 1917, and later at Villawood, Gosford and now Forestville.

Harold left school aged fifteen, to help the family finances and took a job in the mail room of Australian General Electric (AGE), starting on today's equivalent salary of $1.99 for a 48 hour week. Encouraged by his boss and determined to better himself, Harold went to night school, and graduated as an electrical engineer, remaining with the same company until his retirement 50 years later. Probably the pinnacle of his professional career was his involvement in the design and installation of 330,000 volt, air blast circuit breakers for the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme.

He married Evelyn on 9th November 1935 and they had two sons and a daughter, and his descendants include ten grandchildren and twenty six great-grandchildren. He still has two surviving sisters, one aged 94 and the other in her high eighties. Harold and Evelyn eventually made their home on the Central Coast, where he remained after Evelyn's death, until a fall and further ill health (aged 98) forced him to retire to The Church of Christ's Retirement Hostel at Forestville, two years ago.

I first met Harold and his wife Evelyn when they joined ANOS and our friendship was enhanced when the pharmaceutical firm, for whom my wife Joan and I worked in Surry Hills, Sydney, relocated to a new, purpose built, manufacturing facility at Biloela* Street, Villawood. Harold and Evelyn lived in Villawood and whilst Harold was overseas on an extended business trip, Evelyn joined the company too.

After losing contact with Harold following his accident and move from Gosford, I located him in November 2004 through the kind efforts of Harlene Williams the wonderful hostess of Warringah Group meetings. I visited Harold and found him ensconced in his lounge chair, editing the revised manuscript of a new edition of his previously published two volume family history. He pointed out that new members of the family had appeared since the original publication and they too would need their copy, and so it was his duty to add their names and ancestry to the Jay clan.

The new version in DVD format has now been completed. When you consider the permutations - three children, ten grandchildren, twenty six great grandchildren, plus new marriages, births, it appears Harold has plenty of work to carry him on into his next millennium!

I took his photograph, posed outside his room, and he in turn, used my Nikon SLR 90X in auto focus, 28-200mm zoom mode, aperture priority, and without glasses, took mine!

I express appreciation to Harold's son Brian Jay of Cromer, also an electrical engineer, for filling in the gaps.

Harold has received his congratulatory letter from the Queen and I am sure that ANOS Council will honour him in the same manner.

Harold is a remarkable man, with a brilliant memory for his age, proud patriarch of his growing family, perfectly at peace, ready to meet his maker when the invitation comes. When I suggested that at an age of 98.5 years it might be a good thought to delay the invitation and enjoy his century, and obligatory letter from the Queen, he admitted that might be nice too!

I am glad his invitation has not come, may he continue in good health and clear of mind until he decides it is time to accept that invitation!

* Biloela in the local aboriginal language means yellow crested cockatoo.

Murray J.G. Corrigan
02 9913 9935 or email –
mjcorrigan@idx.com.au

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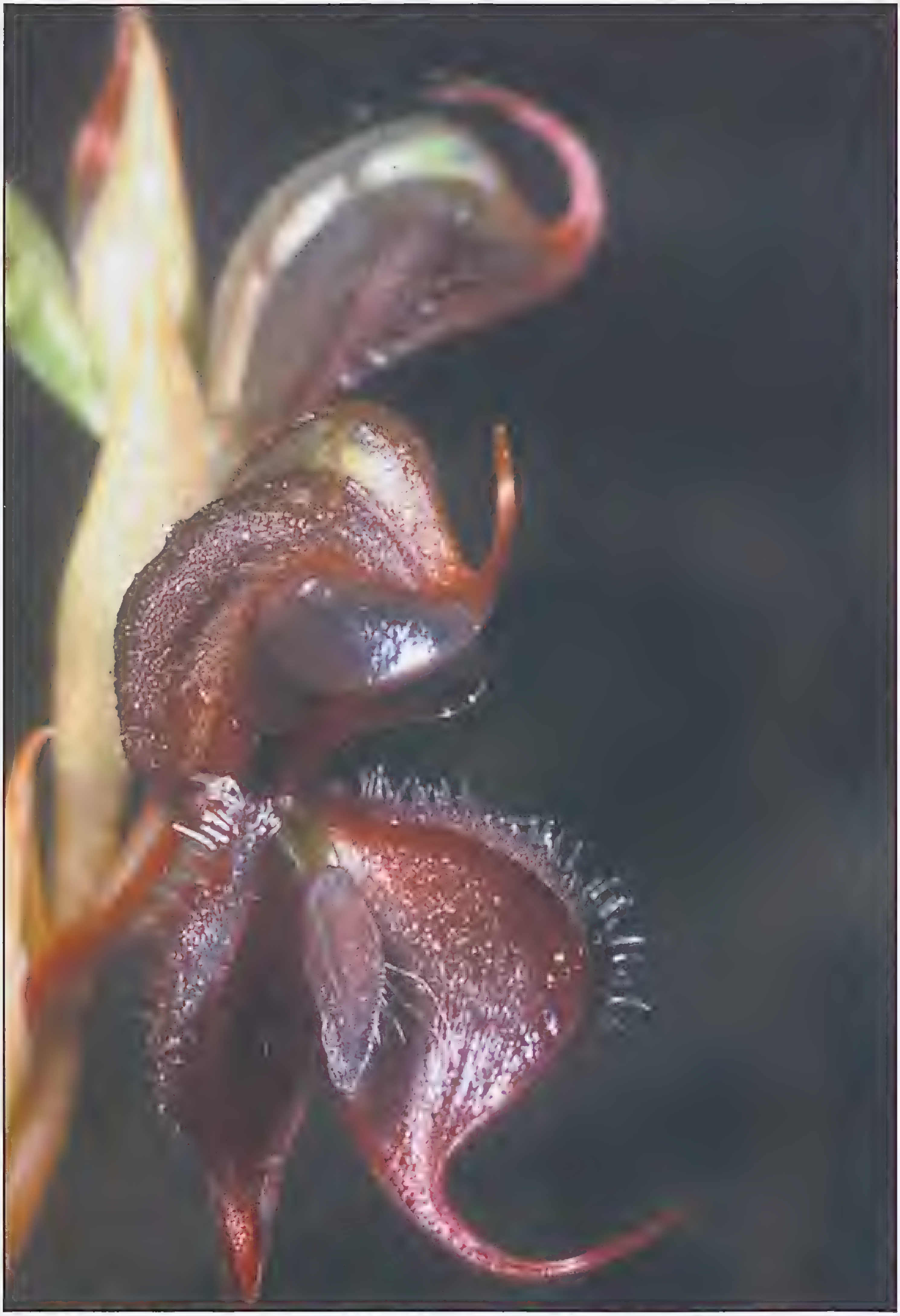
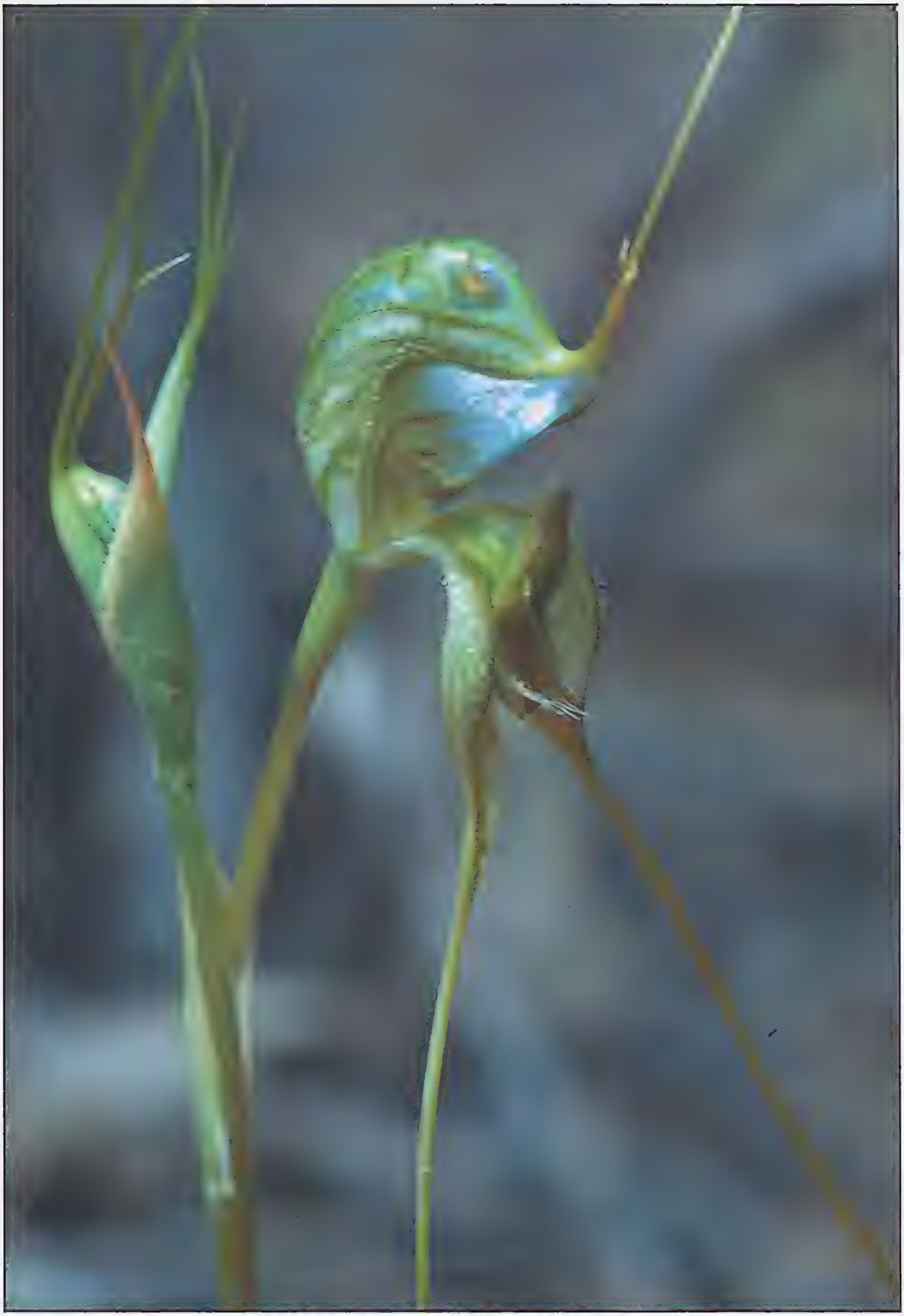
Photograph of Harold Jay by Murray Corrigan



Pterostylis boormanii, (*Oligochaetochilus boormanii*) Rushworth State Forest.



Pterostylis woollsii, (*Oligochaetochilus woollsii*), Rushworth State Forest.

Photos Peter Krake

The Rare Orchid of the Rushworth District.

Bernice Burgess,
19 O'Brien Court,
West Albury. NSW. 2640.

On the 12th November 2005, I joined with the combined Terrestrial and Conservation Group of ANOS. Victoria in their search for *Pterostylis* (*Oligochaetochilus*) *woollsii* near Whroo. The purpose of the search which was led by Peter Krake was to extend the known range of the species. Participants were not optimistic of success as the season had been poor except for the rain in recent weeks.

Pterostylis woollsii (Long-tailed Greenhood) belongs to the Rufa Group of *Pterostylis*. Members of the Rufa Group are recognized by the following characteristics – the flower stem emerges from the centre of a dying rosette, flowers are numerous, lateral sepals point downwards and the labellum has marginal setae. In Victoria, *Pterostylis woollsii* is rare and has been observed in only a few sites near Rushworth. Here it is found on level ground, gravelly soil and often under *Eucalyptus polybracteau* or *Eucalyptus microcarpa*. It is considered to be the most spectacular member of the Rufa Group and is easily recognized by the long, filamentous tails on the lateral sepals.

Intending participants were asked to meet at Rushworth, an historic town, 20 km west of Murchison off the Goulburn Valley Highway. Rushworth still shows evidence of its gold-rush days with nearly all the remaining buildings in High Street classified by the National Trust.

The actual search took place in the Rushworth State Forest – 24,300 ha of ironbark forest said to be the largest natural ironbark forest in the world. The ironbark forest contains pockets of mallee which are harvested for their eucalyptus oil. These pockets were expected to provide the most likely sites for the presence of *Pterostylis woollsii*. Before the search began our shoes were disinfected to guard against transmitting *Phytophthora* to native plants.

At the first site, a recently harvested area, all twenty four participants spread out in a line to search the area. No orchids were found. We then spread into the surrounding mallee and found four specimens of *Pterostylis boormannii* – two with red flowers, one greenish flower and one very chewed. Several *Thelymitra spp*. had gone to seed.

We then moved further into the forest to a site where several plants of *Pterostylis woollsii* were being monitored and were protected by cages. Sightings from previous years when conditions were better were marked using small metal discs – the year of flowering was indicated by a change of colour. One additional plant of *Pterostylis woollsii* was sighted together with several plants of *Pterostylis setifera* and a hybrid between *Pterostylis setifera* and *Pterostylis boormannii*. This was an ideal photographic stop.

Following this fairly unsuccessful search we broke for lunch. In the afternoon we searched this area again very carefully together with an extension of the area. All participants spread out at 3 metre intervals. This search was far more successful with the group finding a number of *Pterostylis setifera* and *Pterostylis boormannii* together with some hybrids of these two orchids. Also found were several plants of *Pterostylis pusilla* and one more plant of *Pterostylis woollsii*. There was scattered evidence of *Thelymitra spp*. and *Caladenia spp*. having flowered earlier.

As this search drew to a close some group members suggested we visit Axedale (near Bendigo) as an un-named species of *Prasophyllum* sp. aff. *validum* was flowering profusely in a nearby flora reserve. I, personally, couldn't resist the opportunity. We drove for an hour before reaching the flora reserve where these tall, yellowish-green orchids were growing prolifically amongst *Microtis unifolia* and a host of other native plants in flower.

Although we were only able to marginally extend the known range of *Pterostylis woollsii,* the sighting of the other orchids added to our pleasure and satisfaction.

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2. *Explore Australia: the complete touring companion.* Ringwood, Victoria, Penguin Books Australia, 1995. (Claremont Book) 0 670 86433 1
3. Jones, David L. *Native orchids of Australia.* Frenchs Forest, NSW, Reed Books, 1988. 0 7301 0189 4

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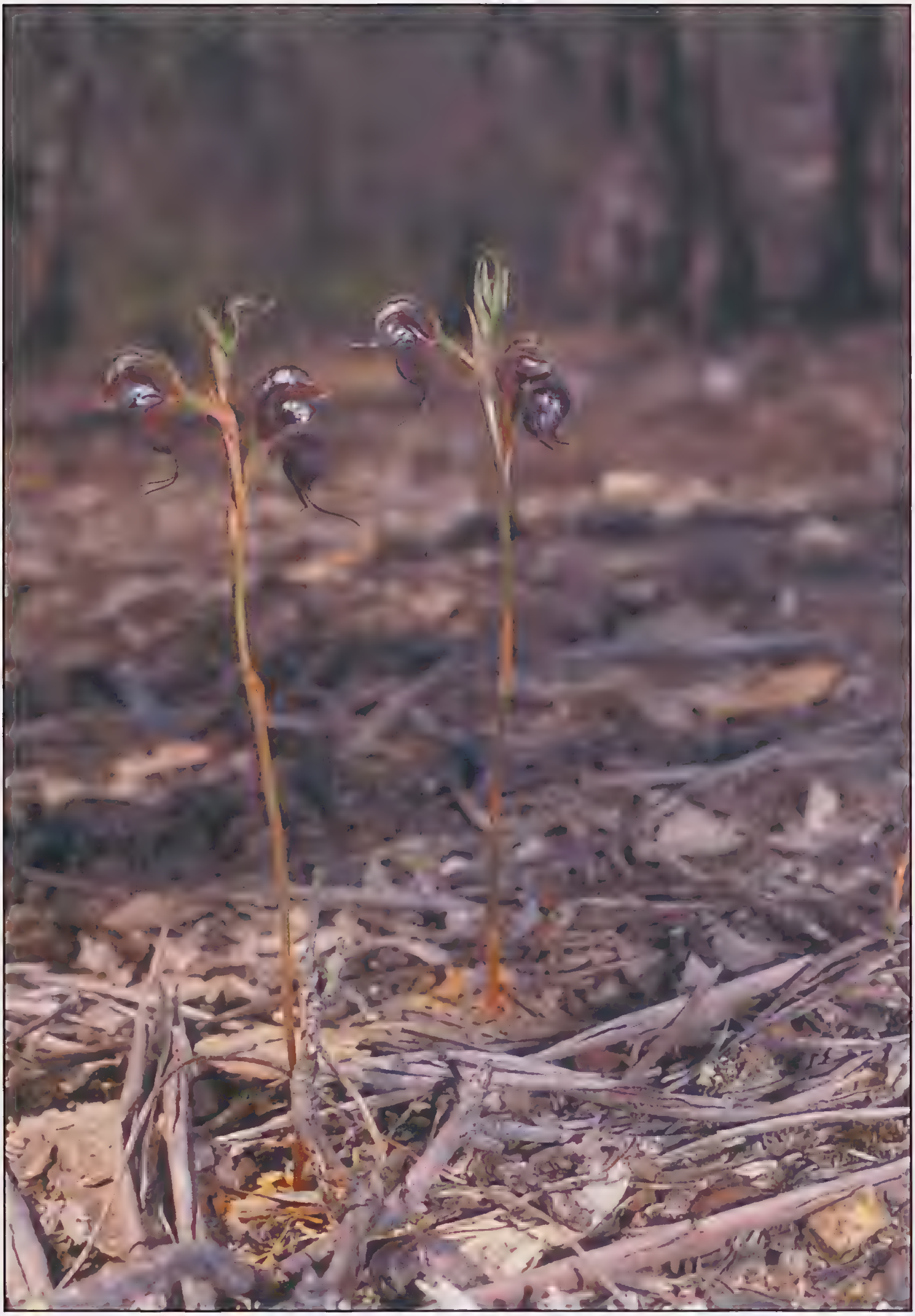
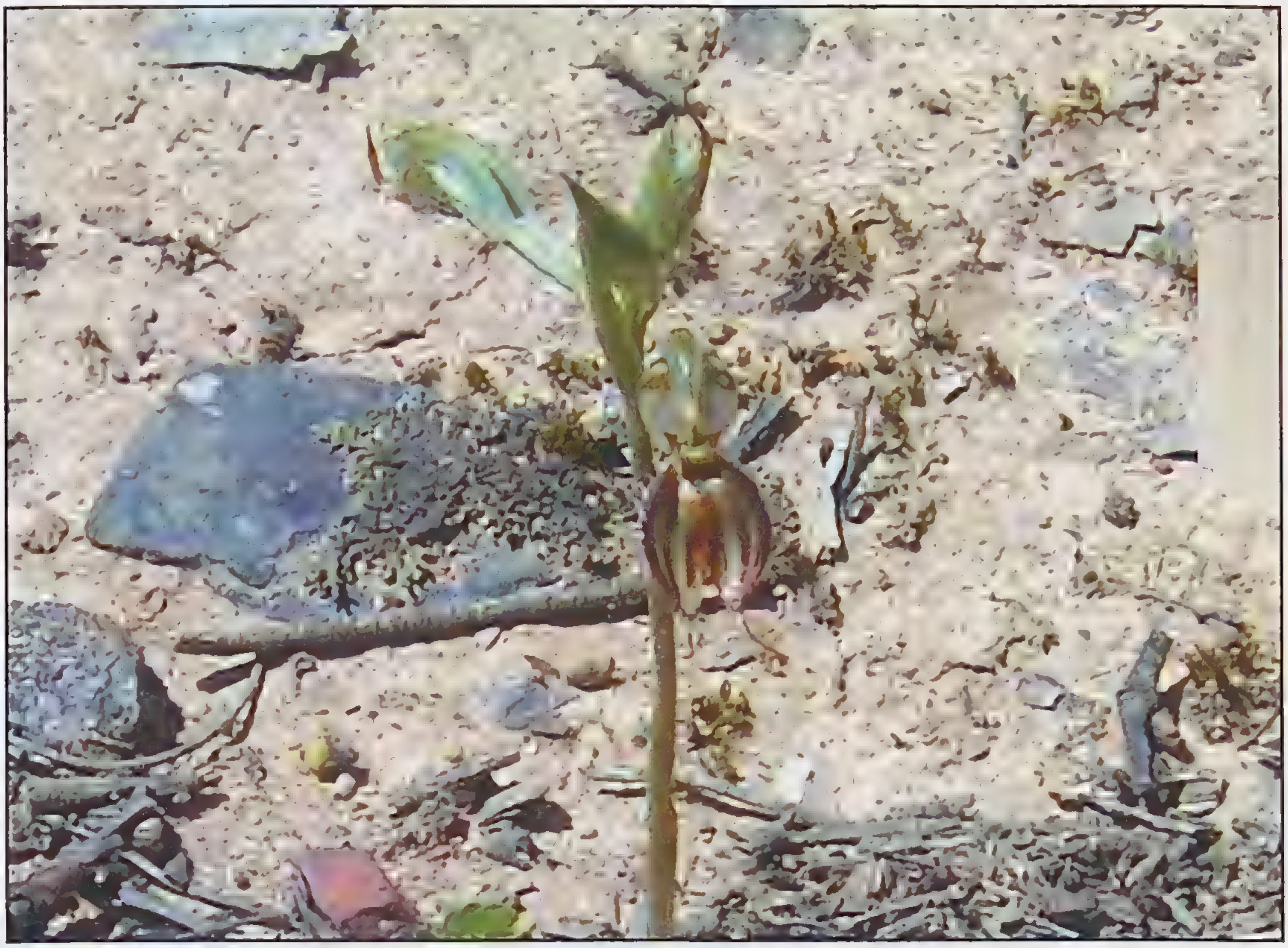


Pterostylis boormanii, (*Oligochaetochilus boormanii*) Rushworth State Forest.

Photo Peter Krake

Habitat of *Pterostylis woollsii*, this tree struck by lightning.



Hybrid between *Pterostylis setifera* and *Pterostylis boormanii*.

Photos Len Field

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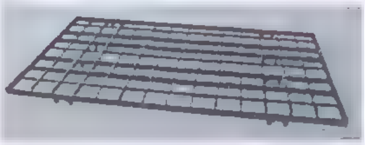

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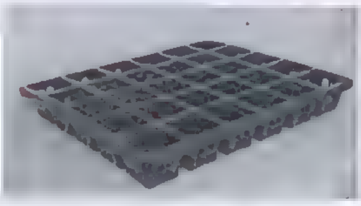

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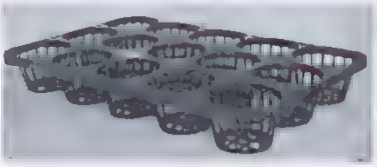

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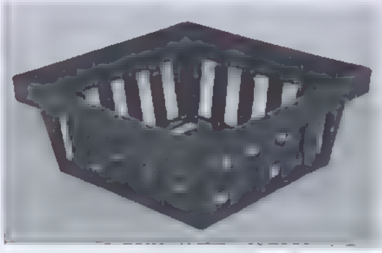

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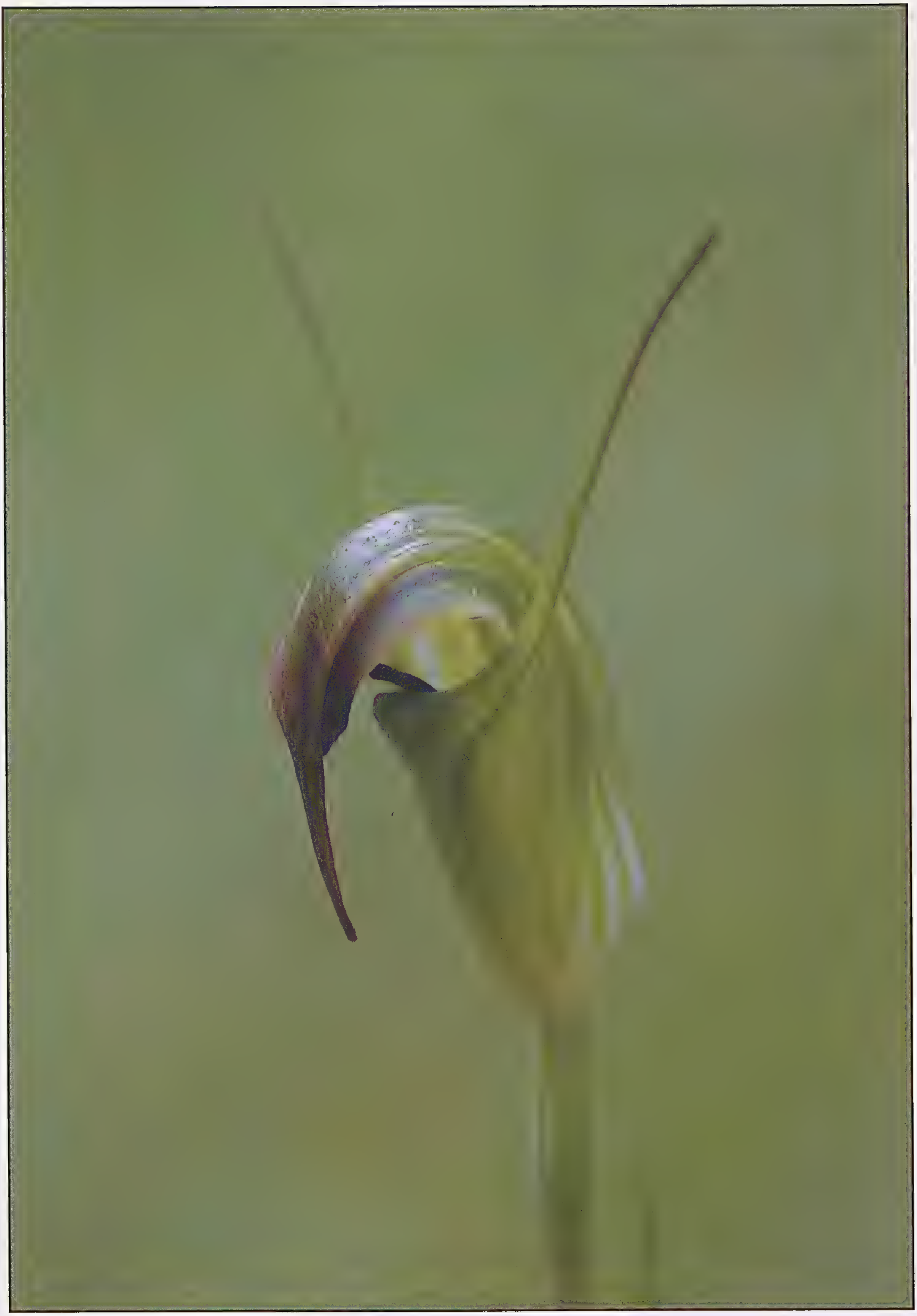
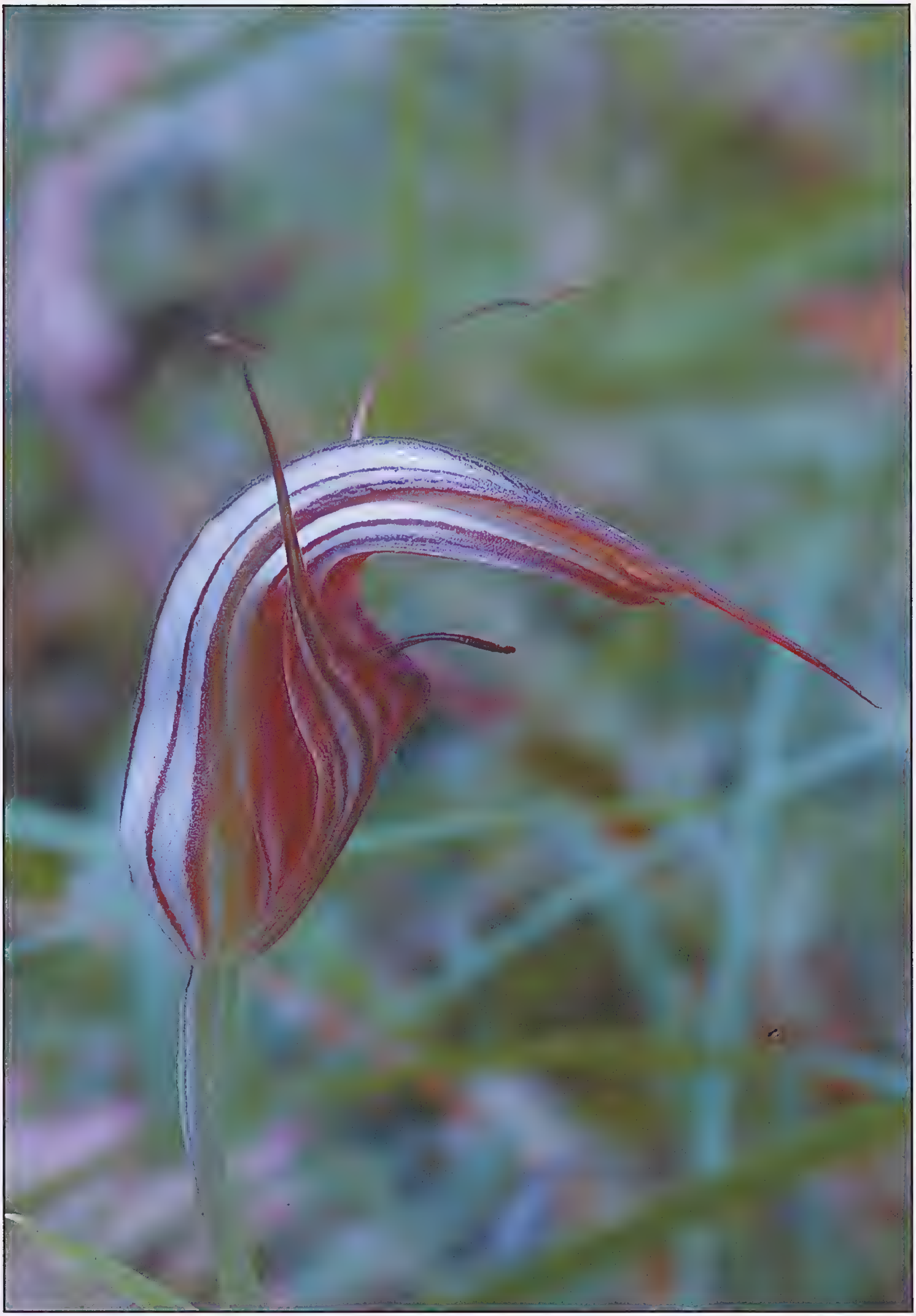


Diplodium sp. nova. Mt Wilson, found in two seperate areas.



Diplodium coccinum, red form from Mt Wilson.

Photos Bill Dobson

Mt Wilson on a good day.

Alan W Stephenson
Conservation Officer
Australasian Native Orchid Society
astephenson@vtown.com.au

It was my first time for an orchid centred outing in the Blue Mountains and I considered it to be a successful day from the very start. This is because my travelling companion was awake, alert and almost on time. Twenty one members from three ANOS groups, Warringah, Sydney and Illawarra made the effort so there were ample eyes to spot whatever was available. This is quite different to my normal outings in and around Nowra, where I provide the only pair of eyes and legs to look for whatever is available.

The action began at the Cathedral of Ferns car park and continued later at the Waterfall Walk. There is nothing better to start your day than enjoy a brief walk through some magnificent rain forest, simply dripping with *Dockrillia pugioniformis* and numerous small plants of *Sarcochilus falcatus*. Neither species of course was in flower but the return journey was profitable as group leader Peter Eygelshoven knew the area and in no time we were photographing *Chiloglottis reflexa* and *Cryptostylis leptochila* followed by *Acianthus apprimus,* which is a species I had not seen before. This species is quite similar to *A. fornicatus* but the hooded dorsal, flowering time and location were good pointers to correct identification.

My travelling companion, Graeme Bradburn, said it would make his day if he could find the small cauline species which is known to occur in this area. It has previously been considered to be a hybrid between *Diplodium decurvum* and *D. obtusum* but owing to the distance between the known locations of both species it has also been thought of as a new species. That seems like more work for a group of already overloaded people in Canberra and as with all mysteries, this one will eventually be solved. As luck would have it several plants were located and the true identity will certainly be the focus of numerous discussions for some time when photos are compared. Needless to say Graeme went home with a smile, although by days end it was definitely a tired smile on his face. The point I make about the differing opinions of this plant, is that *D. obtusum* was in flower a few metres away from the alleged hybrid but no plants of *D. decurvum* are within several kilometres.

Meanwhile, I had been hoping to see the much vaunted *Diplodium coccinum*, which does not occur in the Shoalhaven and I also went home satisfied. This is a striking flower with red striping over a translucent white background and it provides a magnificent photographic subject. However, despite the obvious colour it was not an easy species to locate, as it hides among the grasses with most plants atop a stem of 15 cm or less.

For the time of the year and the lack of rain the number of orchids we saw on the day was quite good. Some of these were in flower but several were either old stems, new stems without buds or rosette leaves. Those which fell into the deceased category were a lone *Dipodium* sp., a few plants of what was considered to be the mysterious *Corunastylis apostasioides*, which is more easily noted in flower the season following a fire as it self-pollinates almost as soon as it is in flower. *Dockrillia fairfaxii* was one of a very few epiphytes along with *Plectorrhiza tridentata.* Another deceased but obvious species was *Thelymitra carnea* and this was assumed because of plant size and flower count, a struggling *Microtis* sp. The usual number of *Corunastylis* spp. were noted as having finished their flowering cycle for the year and it is anyone's guess as to a correct species identity. A single rosette of the old favourite, *Pterostylis curta* was seen and it would have been a surprise if at least one rosette had not been noted, such its widespread and common occurrence. Leaves of an *Acianthus* sp. were obvious but these would most likely prove to be *A. apprimus*.

One species which was frequently seen was *Bunochilus longifolius* but these were stems only. Less common were the flowers of *Orthoceras strictum* as just two flowers remained on the single plant seen. One species which seemed plentiful was *Corunastylis simulans* as it occurred at several locations. Many of these plants exhibited excellent colour with some the normal deep purple to deep red but a few specimens featured a colour which was almost black and these received the most attention from the camera brigade. This is a species which is common not only to the Blue Mountains but also on the escarpments which range along the Shoalhaven River and areas further west towards Canberra.

On another good note was the finding of two forms of *Speculantha parviflora*. These were the normal brown/red form and also a green form which is not uncommon to the area. The Shoalhaven district is well supplied with this species and to these eyes the variety of forms is almost endless, as there seems to be some slight difference in many of the populations in that area. Tony Bishop in his book *"A Field Guide to the Orchids of New South Wales and Victoria"* lists eight different forms, not including the spring flowering form, which is now known as *Speculantha vernalis*. The green form of this *Spec. parviflora* is different to the green form I was shown near Anglesea in Victoria a few years ago, as the Anglesea form has smaller flowers on generally smaller and less floriferous plants.

The only disappointment for me was the unavailability of *Rimacola elliptica* and this was due to lack of rain, as rain must fall in sufficient quantities to seep through the sandstone to allow these plants to flower. Leaves of *R. elliptica* were evident but it seems this is a case of, wait until next season. The good day for me was the company, numerous species which were new to me and the fact that the threatening rain decided to wait until two hours after we left Mt Wilson.

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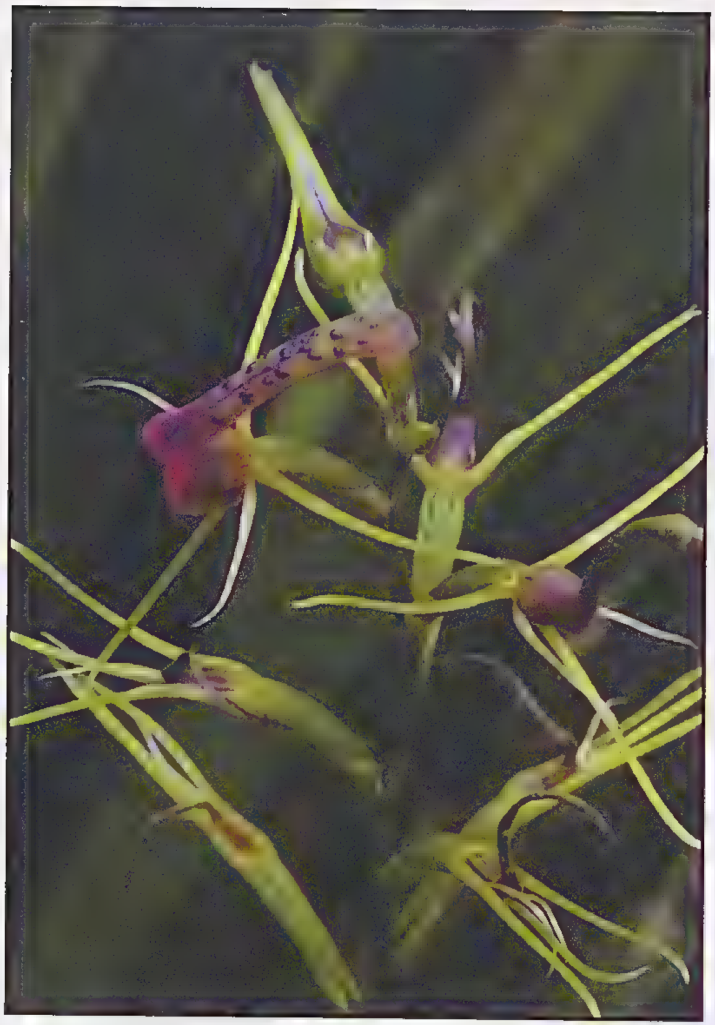
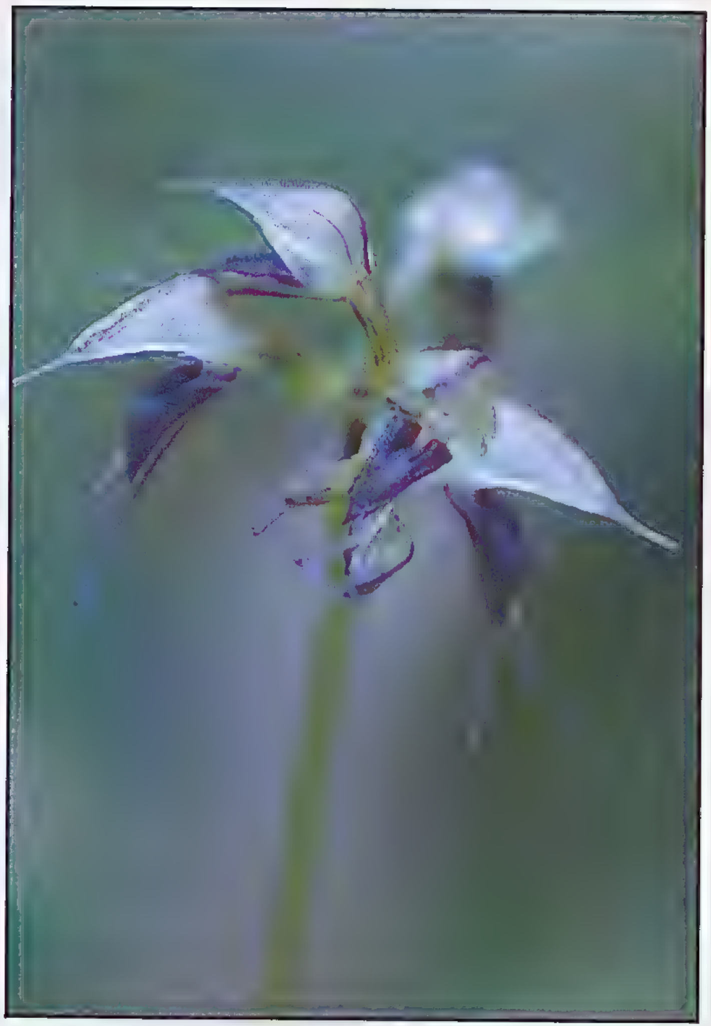
The order for the day was to pick an orchid and queue up to take the photo.



Cryptostylis leptochila.



Acianthus apprimus.

Members from ANOS Illawarra, Sydney and Warringah Groups who enjoyed day at Mt Wilson.

Photos Bill Dobson

A Complete Guide to Native Orchids of Australia
By David L. Jones

This book is a complete and comprehensive guide to every native species, subspecies and natural hybrid of Australian native orchids. The book is designed in such a way that will make, identification easier and hopefully encourage more people to take an interest in these fascinating plants. Botanical terms are kept to a minimum and are explained in the comprehensive glossary. Name changes, the bugbear of all orchid enthusiasts, are cross-referenced in the comprehensive index to provide a quick guide for locating any species in the book.

A brief introductory section deals with various aspects of Australian orchids including Growth Features, Floral Features. Orchid Names, Pollination, Natural Hvbridisation, Effects of Fire, Seed Germination and Mycorrhizal Fungi ending with brief notes on basic growing requirements and is illustrated with numerous colour photos including many fascinating action shots of orchid flowers being pollinated by a range of insects.

Descriptions, distribution data, habitat details and notes are provided for 1304 taxa of Australian orchids arranged in 193 genera. Terrestrial and epiphytic orchids are treated in separate sections. Related or similar genera have been grouped together in separate chapters to aid with identification. In the larger genera, species with a similar general appearance are grouped together, also to facilitate identification. Common names are included in the hope they will help overcome the resistance that many people have to botanical names.

Each genus is illustrated by a line drawing which show the main vegetative features of the plants and some aspects of the flowers. A colour photograph accompanies nearly each species and in some cases extra photos have been included to show floral variation, close-up details or aspects of the plants.

A superbly illustrated comprehensive book that will be a collectors item and a reference work for all orchid enthusiasts for many years to come.

Available through the **Australian Orchid Foundation** for $75.00 each including postage and packaging in Australia.Books should be available September 2006, so get your order in as soon as possible.

For a Pre Publication Order Form write to:
Australian Orchid Foundation
107 Roberts St
Essendon, VIC 3040
Australia.
Or Fax your request to 61 3 9379 3570

This publication has been subsidized by legacies to the Australian Orchid Foundation by the late Arthur R. Parkin, Stuart A. Ware and Ronald G. Tunstall.

The Orchadian update.

Technology is wonderful until things go wrong. I have had some computer trouble over the past month or so, and apologise for the lateness of this issue of *The Orchadian*. This and the fact that I am short on material for publishing has put me behind. (ok, and the world cup soccer too).

At our last AGM in 2005, I brought up the problem of being short on material and an offer of $100 was put to the meeting to be given to an article printed over the next four issues. I no sooner finished the September issue when sufficient material arrived for the next two issues, so I did not worry about the offer at that time. Next month will be our next AGM and if the offer still stands I will implement it for the next four issues. There will be no criteria for the articles and will be decided on by ANOS Council prior to the next AGM. The article can be on anything to do with Australasian native orchids. I do need more material for publishing so if you do have the urge or an idea to put something to paper I would be grateful to receive it.

Colour Fund now a Conservation Fund
Another change members will see will be the change of the Colour Fund to a Conservation Fund. In my time as Editor we have not needed to use funds donated by members to supplement colour in this journal. Modern technology makes the production and printing of colour cheaper than it has ever been before. As long as we maintain a sufficient membership the cost of colour is adequately covered. We presently have sixteen of forty eight pages in colour with each issue and I think that is plenty for this size and style of magazine. Details of the Conservation Fund and how it will disperse funds for conservation will be finalised and printed in *The Orchadian* in the near future.

Reprints of old *The Orchadian* material
The software now exits, and probably has or some time but I have only recently come across it, to scan printed material and put it into a Word document and be able to edit the material to a more updated version. I have done this with the article on page 183, so if you have seen the article by the late Bill Murdoch and wondered what was going on, then I hope this explains it. If anyone feels that a reprint of an older article may be worth redoing let me know. I am sure that reprinting older material can help us now as it did before.

Spring and Sarcochilus Show dates
I hope to have the September Issue out by the end of August so if any of the Groups wish to have their Spring and Sarcochilus Show dates mentioned in *The Orchadian* they will need to have the information to me by early August. I already have some with more details than is printed opposite.

Peter Eygelshoven
Editor.

Book Review.

Field guide to the New Zealand orchids

Ian St George, Bruce Irwin, Dan Hatch
3rd Edition 2005.
Members $15 - Non members $25.
Published by The New Zealand Native Orchid Group, Wellington, 2005
ISBN 0-9597931-1-9

Reading the 'Introduction to the third edition', you see the problems when three authors of one book have different views on nomenclature. The first paragraph ends "the final nomenclature here results from fierce arguement, conservative sentiment and sheer stubbornness, leavened by editorial charm." I trust this sense of humour has kept the authors in close friendship. Where it is applicable the new nomenclature or synonym is also used.

The book size, 15 cm by 21 cm and 136 pages, makes it easy to carry when bushwalking (tramping, NZ) and although there are no photographs each recognised orchid species, over 120, has a detailed drawing and an Ecological Region map showing its distribution. The introduction does admit to the possible omission and inaccuracies of these maps. I found it curious that New Zealand and Australia share so many of the same species and yet so many different species.

The excellent line drawings by Bruce Irwin and Ian St George, with help from Eric Scanlen, and detailed description, should make identifying orchids in the field easy. Scale bars with each drawing can give a reasonable feel for the size of a plant or flower, which is important in the field. Photographs rarely have scale bars and often are hard to compare sizes with orchids in the field.

Many of our Australian orchids also grow in neighbouring countries so it is important that when talking, writing and reading about a certain species that it is recognised as growing not only in Australia but elsewhere as well. This book will supplement other books in correctly identifying and recognising the distribution of orchid species and genera between Australia and New Zealand.

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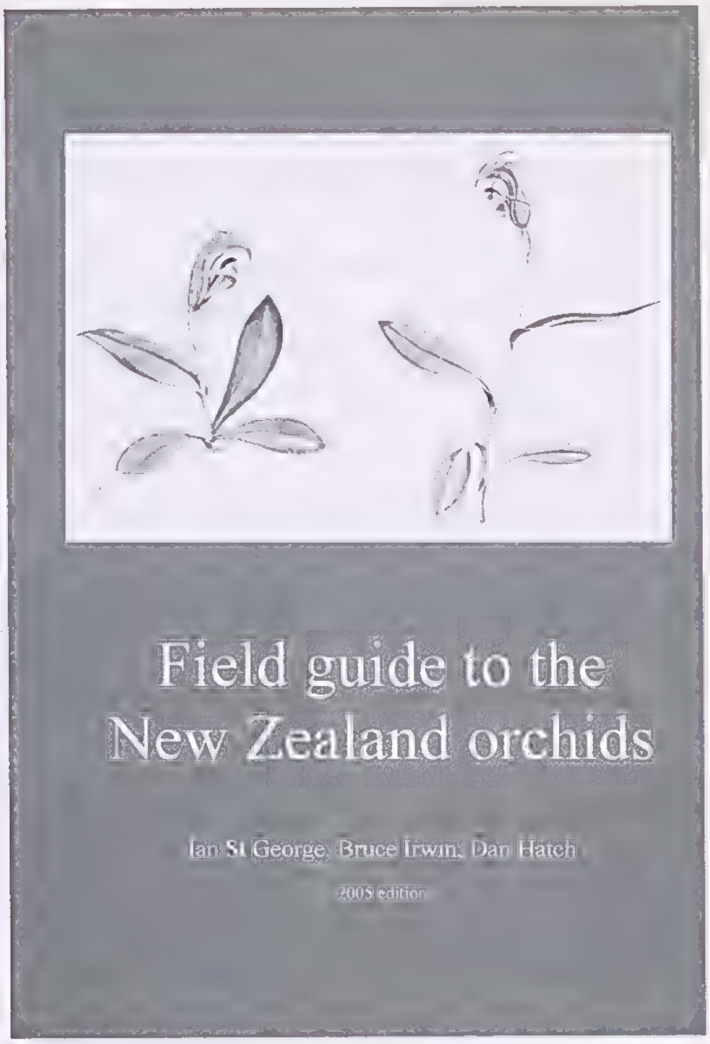
Field guide to the New Zealand orchids
Ian St George, Bruce Irwin, Dan Hatch
2005 edition

Field Guide to the
New Zealand orchids
3rd edition, 2005.
Available from Brian Taylor,
4 Byrd St, Levin. NZ
$25 includes p&p
in New Zealand only.

Show dates for 2006.

19 - 20 Aug	St Ives Orchid Fair - St Ives Showground, Mona Vale Rd, St Ives
26 - 27 Aug	ANOS Newcastle Spring Show - Club Macquarie, Argenton
02 - 03 Sept	Speciosum Spectacular - Kempsey, 57 Spooners Ave, Greenhills
07 - 10 Sept	ANOS Central Coast Spring Show - Flora Festival, Mt Penang
09 - 10 Sept	ANOS Illawarra Spring Show - Old Court House, Wollongong
09 - 10 Sept	ANOS Warrignah Spring Show - Forestville Memorial Hall
16 - 17 Sept	ANOS Sydney Spring Show - Eastwood Shopping Centre
22 - 24 Sept	ANOS Newcastle Spring Show -
14 - 15 Oct	ANOS Illawarra Sarcochilus Show - Old Court House, Wollongong
14 - 15 Oct	ANOS Newcastle Sarcochilus Show - Belmont Sports Club
22 Oct	ANOS Sydney Sarcochilus Show - Baulkham Hills Community Centre
04 -05 Nov	ANOS Geelong Sarcochilus Show - Masonic Centre Regent St Belmont
05 Nov	Devenport Sarcochilus Show - The Devenport Showgroung, Gunn St Ent

Sex and Death in the Sydney Tropical Centre.

Turn on the television after dinner these days and there is a fair probability that you will be confronted by either sex or violent death, or both. If an advertisement is running, then sex, or at least the suggestion of it, can be expected, while the program itself is more likely to feature someone's untimely demise.

Dramatists and despots have known for millennia that death provides great entertainment, and advertisers realised long ago that nothing sells a product better than the lure of sex. You may conclude that people are obsessed with sex and death.

Biologists think there are fundamental reasons why this is so. Death and sexual reproduction are two of the most important evolutionary processes. They are the very stuff of Darwinian natural selection. We like sex because our ancestors enjoyed it. Those who didn't like sex tended, on average, to be the parents of fewer children than those who did like it. Our aversion to death is the flip side of sexual desire.

This argument is a crude one in that it concentrates only on the quantity, not quality, of reproduction. But sex gives us the opportunity to link our genes to those we perceive to be of superior quality. For example, we tend to prefer mates who possess desirable physical and mental characteristics.

So what does this anthropocentric theorizing have to do with plants? Quite a lot, actually. Plants have sex too, but we call it pollination. In fact, plants are far more sexually explicit than we are. Take their sexual organs, for instance. Most flowers display their male sexual organs (anthers) in the boldest way imaginable, well exposed beyond their petals.

And many plants are completely indiscriminate in the way they dispense their male gametes. Most of us go about our everyday lives blissfully unaware that we are swimming in a sea of male sex cells – the pollen grains of wind-pollinated plants. The female parts of most flowers (pistils) are often decidedly immodest too, protruding even more prominently than the anthers.

In the choice of sexual partners, plants are often utterly indiscriminate, their eggs being fertilised by distantly related plants and even themselves, all at the same time. Since most plants are bisexual, they can simultaneously "father" other plants' seeds, too.

However, some plants are far more selective, concentrating on the quality, not the quantity of their sexual reproduction. Many bisexual plants have complex genetic mechanisms that prevent them from fertilising related plants, thus minimising the harmful genetic effects of inbreeding in their progeny.

As essentially immobile organisms, plants require sex aids in order to make contact with potential mates. While plants such as grasses rely on inanimate aids like the wind to carry their pollen to mates, most plants exploit animals as pollen vectors.

Plants often acquire these sexual services by offering tangible rewards to attract their pollinators. Although nectar and pollen are the most commonly offered rewards, some plants, and especially some orchids, produce a diverse range of desirable, collectible substances to lure their pollinators, including oils, starchy or protein-rich granules and fragrant chemicals.

Yet other plants (and again, orchids figure most prominently here) offer the semblance of tangible rewards, such as food, brood sites or even sex, but fail to deliver anything of use to their pollinators. These deceptive flowers mimic items that their pollinators find desirable, such as nectar- or pollen-bearing flowers, edible fungi, items of prey and even sexual partners.

As well as having sex, plants also die, as any unsuccessful horticulturalist can tell you. Moreover, death is just as important a selective process for plants as it is for animals.

Consider, for example, mortality in *Orchis maculata*, a British native ground orchid. Charles Darwin estimated that in a single season, a mature plant could produce 186,300 tiny seeds. If every one of these germinated and reached reproductive maturity, they would cover an acre of land. Darwin calculated that if all of these plants were similarly fecund and all seeds grew to maturity, the second generation would cover Anglesea. The third generation "would nearly clothe with one uniform green carpet the entire surface of the land throughout the globe".

In reality, only a minute number of plant babies ever succeeds in reaching adulthood. But only three of the first generation of seedlings would have to grow and survive to adulthood for Darwin's orchid to be a winner in the struggle for existence.

The Botanic Gardens has decided to explain these concepts by way of a new living exhibition, opened in the Sydney Tropical Centre earlier this year, entitled simply 'Sex and Death'. The plant groups that were thought to illustrate these ideas best, and would provide visually appealing displays, are orchids and carnivorous plants.

We chose orchids to exemplify plant sex because no other family shows such a diverse range of highly specialised pollination systems. The idea of illustrating death with a display of living plants seems like a contradiction in terms and this side of natural selection is obviously much more of a challenge for us. Carnivorous plants seemed like the most obvious choice – we don't want our plants to die but we do hope they will dispatch a few hapless insects along the way.

The displays will be grouped around four themes: Seduction, Co-operation, Deception and Death, each with its own characteristic plants, accessories, signage and slogans.

Seduction ("Beauty can be its own reward") will feature orchid hybrids – plants that rely on people for all of their needs, including sex (their pollinators are orchid breeders), birth (their seedlings need to be germinated in sterile flasks of nutrient agar), their growing environment (orchid nurseries) and dispersal (local and international trade). These are the plants that most people think of as typical orchids – *Cymbidium*, *Cattleya*, *Dendrobium*, *Phalaenopsis* and *Vanda* plants with large, colourful, often long-lasting, waxy or frilly flowers.

Co-operation ("You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours") will feature orchid species that offer tangible rewards to their pollinators, including some of the most spectacular orchids still found in the wild. While some of these, such as the South and Central American *Cattleya* species, are normal flowers in that they provide nectar rewards, others are among the most bizarre flowers imaginable.

My favourite is the genus *Coryanthes*, all species of which are pollinated by male euglossine bees. The bees visit the strongly scented flowers to forage for fragrant chemicals exuded by part of the waxy, slippery, bucket-shaped labellum. The bees store the chemicals that they have gathered in specialised cavities in their hind legs. No-one knows why. A foraging bee eventually slips into the bucket, which is filled with a slimy, clear liquid that drips from two glands above it. To escape, the bee has to swim to the other side of the pool and struggle out under the column, first depositing on the stigma any pollen it has accumulated from a previous encounter with a *Coryanthes* flower, then picking up a new pollen package before departing.

Deception ("prepare to be conned") will feature deceptive orchid species, most of which mimic food sources of one kind or another. While many beautiful orchids belong here, including all of the wild species of *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidium* and *Vanda*, and many of the dendrobiums, so to do some sinister, foul and genuinely sexy orchids. The award for most putrid will go easily to fly-pollinated carrion mimics in the genus *Bulbophyllum*, one of which has been described as "smelling like a herd of dead elephants". My favourite though is the genus *Dracula*, and especially its most eye-catching species, *Dracula vampira*, with its large, dangling, green and black, evil-looking flowers. These orchids are pollinated by female flies that are attracted to the bobbling, white, mushroom-shaped labellum, which mimics the flies' fungal brood sites.

Death ("enter the dark side") is the showcase for our carnivorous plants, including various kinds of pitcher plants, sundews, bladderworts and flytraps. The best known, and most sinister looking, is the Venus Flytrap, *Dionaea muscipula*, with its spiky, folding leaves like mini "iron maidens". These possess sensitive hairs that trigger them to close when tripped by unsuspecting insects. The leaves secrete insect-attracting nectar that doubles as a digestive fluid, attracting, and then dissolving, insects. All carnivorous plants grow in boggy, nutrient-poor soils, for which carnivory is a superb adaptation.

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6th ANOS CONFERENCE AND SHOW

The ANOS (Qld) Kabi Group Inc. will host the 6th ANOS Conference and Show in Brisbane from 29th August to 2nd September 2007.

It will be held at the Riverglenn Conference Centre, Kate street, Indooroopilly. This venue has been booked for our exclusive use for the duration of the event.
It has excellent facilities for the Show, The Conference, the Cocktail Party, the Dinner, Vendor stands etc.

Additionally there is on-site accommodation (single rooms only) available at well below commercial rates for bed and breakfast.
Indooroopilly is a suburb located about 10 minutes drive west of Brisbane CBD.
Riverglenn has good public transport to it and excellent parking areas within its spacious grounds.

Registration fees have been set as follows:

Single Registration $180
Includes: Unlimited Show admission, All Conference lectures, Morning and afternoon tea and lunch for Conference days (Fri & Sat), Registrant's satchel with badge, proceedings etc., Cocktail party on Thursday evening
A **$20 discount** applies to early-bird registrations received with full payment ($160) before 31st March 2007.
Couples Registration $300
Includes: All the above except that there will be a single registrant's satchel with 2 badges and just 1 copy of the proceedings.
A **$30 discount** applies to early-bird registrations received with full payment ($270) before 31st March 2007.
Cocktail Party Guest $30
Conference Dinner (Saturday evening) **$60 pp**

The speaker program is not yet finalised but will include a wide range of leading experts on topics of interest to both dedicated native orchid growers and the general orchid growing community.

The Show Schedule is not yet finalised but is expected to be ready in late July or August and will be posted on the website. It will also be the main subject of the next email update.

The list of vendors includes all leading Australian and Australasian native orchid nurseries as well as a wide range of books, accessories etc. The full list, with website links, is available on our website.

Please visit the website at http://www.anos.org.au/conference for further information as it becomes available. Hope to see you all in August 2007.

Dave Groffen, Conference Chairperson

The following article has been scanned and reproduced from an early issue of *The Orchadian.* In those days the genera and species names were underlined as italics were not available on type-writers. I chose to reproduce this article as we will soon be having out 17th AOC Conference in Port Macquarie, New South Wales. The dreams and ideas of Bill Murdoch, the then President, and many other members of ANOS seem to have come to fruition. Sometimes it is worthwhile to go back and remember what and were it all started from; just as a reminder to what it is we all enjoy so much, ANOS.   Peter.

Conservation of native orchids.

W. H. Murdoch

The first Australian Orchid Conference was held in Brisbane from the 10th to 15th. April 1967. In all, some 16 speakers were selected to speak on some aspect of orchid culture. Possibly because I had taken part in the foundation of the Australasian Native Orchid Society, the task of discussing "Conservation of Native Orchids" fell to me.

I had, perforce, to trace the wastage of our orchids from our forests and to comment on the little that was being done to combat it. The audience was gathered from our several States, and it was a matter of extreme gratification to me, to note how many of them, were in fact, members of A.N.0.S.

Briefly summarised, I pointed out that the increasing interest in our orchids, both here and abroad had established a keen demand and wholesale gathering appears to be the order of the day. Huge quantities are finding their way into our chain stores and other purchasing places, under conditions that entirely preclude their chance of survival. Indeed many plants require such expert knowledge and exact conditions for successful growing, that the sales amounts to nothing less than blatant exploitation.

To these unhappy conditions we must add the loss occasioned by forestry operations. This, in places, is considerable. Further again, we cannot but note the activities of orchid growers. Whilst they contribute something to the credit side, either by learning how to grow the plants, or, as it unfortunately so often happens, prove that they are not amenable to cultivation. However, whatever angle we view the position from, we can only come to the conclusion that the loss is serious and does not appear to be a matter that can be corrected by legislation.

From time to time we hear of groups that, buoyed up with considerable enthusiasm and picnic hampers, descend on this, or that corner of the woods, to introduce Native Orchids. Let me not lose the good will of many friends by adversely commenting on these projects, but I am able to say that I know of no such places, that have not received the attention of vandals and the workers reduced to the point of despair, and subsequent abandonment of the project. Remote areas cease to be remote with the modern four-wheel drive vehicles. Timber and fire roads make access a matter of ease.

The ultimate in frustration must surely have been reached when we recall the experience of the Brisbane Botanical Gardens.

First of all however, might I mention that the State of Queensland conceived the idea of having a floral emblem. Its choice fell on *Dendrobium bigibbum* var. *bigibbum,* and in doing so condemned to extinction, many thousands of these plants.
They have been exported in such quantities that areas once prolific with them are now denuded. *Den. bigibbum* var. *bigibbum* is not easy to grow when

taken into cooler climes and the result can be imagined.

However, back to the Botanic Gardens. Quantities of *Den. bigibbum* var. *bigibbum* were introduced onto suitable growing mediums, one installment alone numbered 500. They were expertly handled and grew satisfactorily and flowered. Then came disaster. As they flowered they disappeared. Yes, taken from the trees, mostly, I am informed, when the attendants were at their meals. Certainly not during the night, as the Gardens are surrounded by substantial protection and are only open during the day.

This example, I contend, is an emphatic answer to the "reserve" theory, it also answers what I consider to be an entirely unstable approach by our conservation authorities. My criticism may not be construed as holding the employees in any way responsible. Quite the reverse indeed. The point I wish to emphasise here, is that they, by virtue of their employment and like thousands of other garden and forest workers, may be designated as "Wardens". Let us examine this position. It appears that all States, in their legislation, rest heavily on the activities of "Wardens" for the policing of their conservation laws. They are of two kinds. Firstly, those already mentioned, i.e. employees of Governmental, or quasi Governmental bodies. Secondly, "Volunteer" Wardens, who are appointed by the appropriate authorities.In the former group it would seem that to be designated as a Warden, would imply having additional duties allotted to them, other than their normal employment.

Is it necessary to follow this thought to its logical conclusion?

The second group have many difficulties to surmount. Despite their undoubted sincerity, the fact that their activities are in conflict with a well expressed antipathy to "Volunteer" law enforcement does not make their job a popular one. The question of effective coverage must also be considered and this aspect must point the futility of accepting less, but not until we could have a Warden on every road, can we expect effective results. In the meantime we have to admit that despite Laws, Wardens and many unrealistic platitudes, we have our orchids leaving the forests in their many thousands.

Is there a solution? It is the opinion of the Executive of the Australasian Native Orchid Society that an effective preliminary move would be to have the export of Native Orchids banned. Secondly I have expressed the opinion for some time that nothing short of a vigorous policy of seedling raising can save orchids. Who will undertake this task? In a small way and, shall we say, somewhat as a preliminary effort it may devolve on any band of enthusiasts. In fact it is already planned on these lines and the Newcastle Group of The Australasian Native Orchid Society, has undertaken to enter the lists. Ultimately it should be the responsibility of the Government.

When seedlings can be made available without cost or even at a nominal price, then we may expect to see the urge of the collectors to rob our forests, a thing of the past.

It is coincidental that the Curator of our Zoo has been very insistent in saying in recent times, that to safeguard some of our more rare animals we must be prepared to breed them. The question is, is not the fate of our native orchids not also a matter of National importance?

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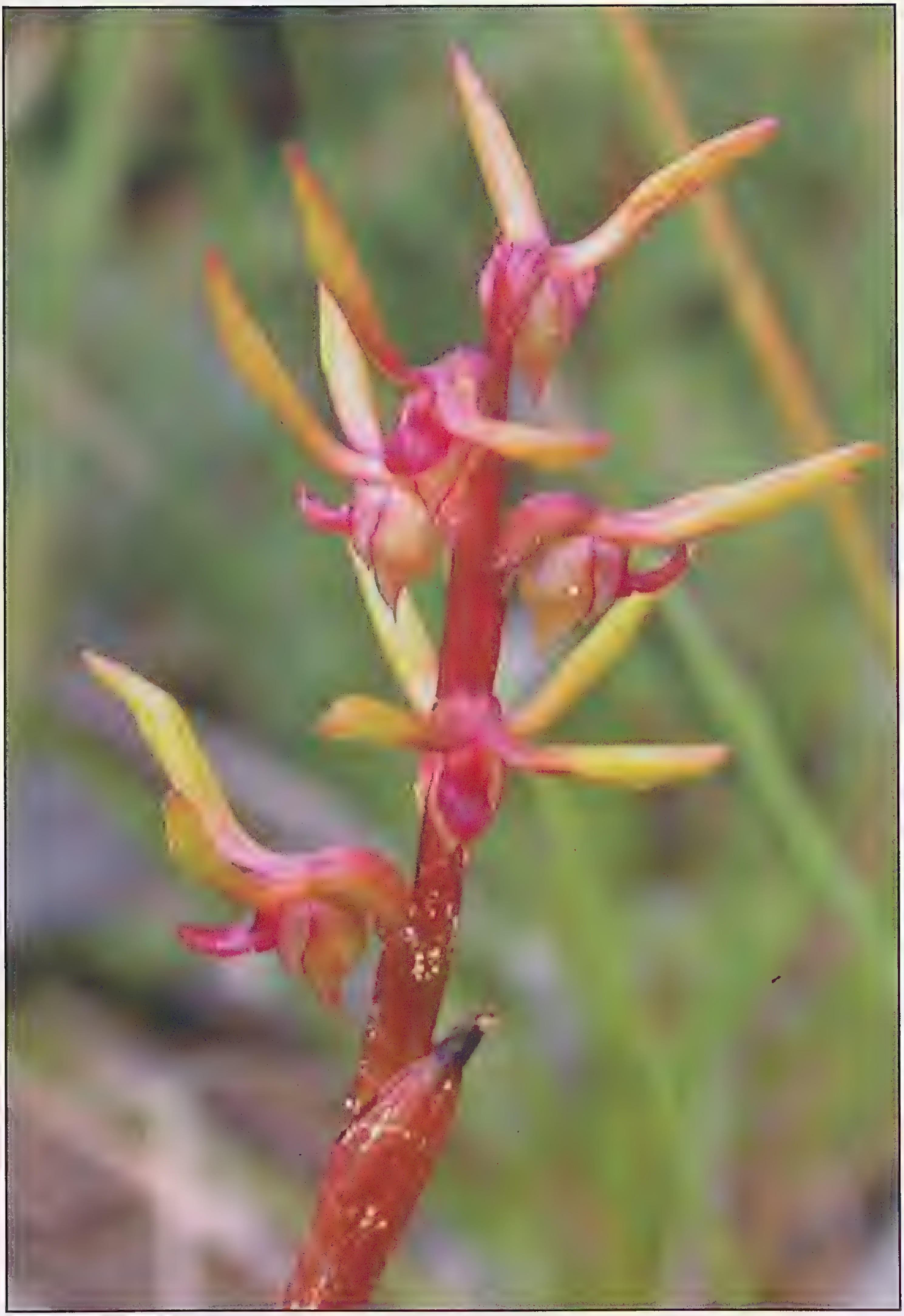

Genoplesium baueri

Photo Alan Stephenson

ANOS Conservation Report.

June 2006

A peaceful demonstration organised by the Jervis Bay Regional Alliance was held on 15-4-2006 adjacent to the Stockland development and I was one of several people who spoke to a gathering of 250 people on particular aspects of the development. The demonstration ran from 10am-2pm and attracted people such as Richard Morecroft and Greens MLC, Sylvia Hale. At the close of the demonstration I spoke with Ms Hale about *Rhizanthella slateri* at Bulahdelah. She informed me that Ian Cohen was a member of a committee looking at the situation and suggested I contact him.

The time for public submissions to the Stockland development at Vincentia closed on 27-4-2006 and I submitted a submission on behalf of ANOS on 24-4-2006.

At the time I lodged the press release a journalist whom I knew saw me at the Newspaper and later phoned me to arrange a story and photo at Vincentia about the Stockland development. This appeared on 29-3-2006 and further articles were included on 12-4-2006 and 24-4-2006.

On 26-4-2005 as a result of the ANOS Press Release, I was interviewed by local journalist June Webster and an article appeared was published on 1-5-2006.

Another orchid conservation issue arose, concerning *Genoplesium baueri*. The area which contains the nine plants was declared a Regional Park in December 2003 after ten years of work by a local group called the Friends of Bomaderry Creek. This creek forms a gorge almost in the town centre and is home to over thirty orchid species but only one vulnerable species. Recently the original proposal to construct a road through the middle of this park re-emerged and the battle re-commenced to save this passive recreation area.

I received an e-mail from Bangalay Botanical Surveys who are based in Maianbar near Bundeena. These people, Claire Delacey and Steve Chamberlain are known to me and I can vouch for their bonafides. They inquired about the possibility of using ANOS Inc. as a medium to attain a grant for the study of several threatened species. The work they will do is to ascertain definite habitat areas which contain these threatened species, in an effort to better predict the likelihood of them occurring on any site, thus giving local authorities a better indication of area where or where not to develop. Grants will be obtained through the Threatened Species Network Community Grants and the Environmental Trust. Discussions with ANOS President followed regarding this matter as his signature was required. My name is on the grant application as an ANOS contact.

On 16-5-2006 I spoke with Kevin Blackwell of the Department of Environment and Heritage. His name was provided by Claire Delacey. Mr. Blackwell works in the section of the DEH which deals with breaches of the act. I asked him if the Stockland development at Vincentia was to be referred to the DEH. He then returned my call and indicated it would be referred. We then spoke about this matter and *R. slateri* at Bulahdelah. He indicated I would be contacted when the Vincentia development was dealt with by the DEH. This will eventuate when Planning NSW has assessed all submissions and also after they have undergone the same process at a federal level. Following this process, those who forwarded submissions would be contacted for further comment on the DEH assessment and a further ten days would be allowed for final submissions.

The next day I spoke with a representative of the NSW Lands Department who is collating and commenting on information relative to Bomaderry Creek and the proposed road through the Regional Park. At this point I must note it will take an act of parliament to rescind the Regional Park listing or to excise a section of it to allow a road to be constructed.

I have written to the newly appointed Minister for Roads, Mr. Eric Roozendaal regarding the Bulahdelah By-pass and *R. slateri*.

A public meeting was held in Nowra on May 19th 2006 by Planning NSW, regarding the proposed Draft South Coast Regional Strategy. This involved the Wollongong office and included planning measures for all coastal towns and villages south of the Illawarra region. I attended as a matter of interest and to put forward my concerns regarding what I consider to be an overdevelopment within the Shoalhaven LGA, particularly the concentration of development around the rivers, lakes and estuaries of the region and subsequent land clearing.

On 21-5-2006 I was involved with an "Orientation Day" at the site of the proposed road through the bush land at Bomaderry Creek. It was attended by current Member for Kiama, Matt Brown MP and Liberal candidate, Mr. Trevor Fredricks as well as several Shoalhaven City Councillors and 200 interested local citizens. Our group constructed notice boards at an entrance site and at various points along the proposed road alignment with posters depicting the major environmental values of the 80 hectares of park. Several speakers with knowledge of those particular sections then addressed the walkers on the merits of that section. It concluded with an address by two officers of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. A small representative feature of the day was shown on WIN 4 television the following evening.

After viewing the ABC Stateline program on Friday 26-5-2005, I managed to track down and contact the relevant person, Mrs. Christine Phelps. Anvill Hill near Muswellbrook is the site of a planned 2000 hectare open cut coal mine to be developed by Centennial Coal. This site contains 12 threatened species of *flora* and *fauna* with many others in the immediate area. The major focus is currently on a new orchid species in the rufa group. This orchid is currently being assessed by the Centre for Plant Biodiversity Research. The Anvill Hill protest group has constructed a website and has had contact with the Environmental Defenders Office. They seem well informed and organised but always seeking help. The environmental assessment is being undertaken by a firm called "Umwelt", who undertake much of their work for the mining industry. Centennial Coal has indicated their intention to translocate all threatened species. An e-mail about the relativity of Anvill Hill to Vincentia to Stateline has elicited no response.

On 31-5-2006 I received an e-mail from Christine Phelps regarding the Anvill Hill Coal Mine, the website address for the local community group and the Threatened Species Nomination submitted for *Oligochaetochilus* sp. aff. *praetermissus*. Forty individuals so far are known to exist in the area. I also sent a letter to Premier Morris Iemma regarding Part 3a of the NSW Planning Act and its impact on threatened species as determined by the Minister for Planning as opposed to full consideration by the Minister for the Environment. The Anvill Hill website address is http://www.anvillhill.org.au.

I was alerted to the Draft Plans of Management for six Nature Reserves within the Shoalhaven area which were prepared and presented for public comment. The closing date for public comment for all plans was May 15th 2006. I have not replied to any of these plans for two reasons. Each plan would require at least two days work, one to visit the area concerned and a further day to write my comments. With the amount of time consumed by the events in the body of this report I trust members will understand this. I am aware of the location of all reserves and have visited most of them in recent years. In addition there are two threatened species in only one section of one of these reserves and I am responsible for their discovery and reporting to NPWS. Only one of these species could be considered as vulnerable to damage by any means as it is located on the roadside verge and damage could occur during normal road grading. Access to some of the reserves is difficult as the Brundee Swamp is surrounded by farmland and does not contain any orchid species. Saltwater Reserve is accessible (albeit difficult) but does contain any threatened orchid species. Both have been severely modified by flood mitigation drainage channels during the 20th century. Within the Kangaroo Valley reserves are the normal run of rainforest epiphytic and lithophytic species. The major problem with most reserves is the prevention of the access of vehicles, particularly with the swamp reserves as these are listed as Endangered Ecological Communities. I will be in constant contact with NPWS and DEC representatives as I am known to several of these people.

Alan W Stephenson

-oOo-

Habitat for *Genoplesium baueri.*

Genoplesium baueri plants marked for yearly studies and counting.

“Orientation Day” at the site of the proposed road through the bush land at Bomaderry Creek.

Notice boards at an entrance site and at various points along the proposed road alignment with posters depicting the major environmental values of the 80 hectares of park.

The peaceful demonstration organised by the Jervis Bay Regional Alliance held on 15th April adjacent to the Stockland development site.

Photos Alan Stephenson

DIRECTORY OF A.N.O.S. GROUPS (& Associated Societies)

NEW SOUTH WALES

- **ANOS Central Coast**, P.O. Box 3010, Erina 2250. ☎(02) 4343-1809. Meetings 8pm, 2nd Wed. each month. Temple Kiely Visitors Centre, Department of Agriculture Station, Research Rd., Narara.
- **ANOS Far North Coast**, P.O. Box 949, Ballina 2478. ☎(02) 6686-6303. Meetings 7.30pm, 3rd Fri. each month. C.W.A. Room, River Street, Ballina.
- **ANOS Illawarra**, 2 Wiford St, Corrimal, 2518. ☎(02) 4284-8308. Meetings 7pm, 2nd Tue. each month. Legacy House, 96 Market St., Wollongong.
- **ANOS Macarthur & District**, 43 Strickland Cres, Ashcroft, 2168. ☎(02) 4626-1825. Meetings 8pm, 3rd Thur. each month. Narellan Community Hall, Queen St., Narellan.
- **ANOS Mid-North Coast**, P.O. Box 128, Taree 2430. ☎(02) 6585-9328. Meetings 7.30pm, last Fri. each month. (Held at Taree or Wauchope - telephone Secretary for details).
- **ANOS Newcastle**, P.O. Box 273, Kotara Fair 2289. ☎(02) 4975-3729. Meetings 7.30pm, 4th Thur. each month. John Young Community Hall, Thomas St, Cardiff.
- **ANOS Port Hacking**, P.O. Box 359, Gymea 2227. ☎(02) 9524-9996. Meetings 8pm, 4th Wed. each month except December and January. (telephone Secretary for details regarding the venue).
- **ANOS Sydney**, 22 Rabaul Ave, Whalan. ☎(02) 9624-1768. Meetings 8pm, 3rd Fri. each month. Senior Citizens Hall, Baulkham Hills Community Centre (off Conie Ave.) Baulkham Hills.
- **ANOS Warringah**, P.O. Box 421, Forestville 2087. ☎(02) 9416-4306. Meetings 8pm, 3rd Tue. each month. Community Hall, Starkey St., Forestville.

QUEENSLAND

- **ANOS Kabi**, PO Box 424, Aspley 4034. ☎ (07) 3359-5752 Meetings 7.30pm, 2nd Tue. each month (except Jan.). Bald Hills Memorial Hall, 2126 Gympie Rd., Bald Hills.
- **ANOS Mackay & Dist.**, PO Box 138, Koumala, 4738. ☎(07) 4950-1065. Meetings 7.30pm, 2nd Thursday of each month at the Andergrove Community Centre, Celeber Drive, Andergrove.
- **ANOS Townsville**, 92 Curie St, Wulguru, 4811. ☎(07) 4778-4311. Meetings 8pm, 1st Tue. each month. Townsville Orchid Society Hall, Pioneer Park (opp. Willows Shopping Centre), Thuringowa..
- **Native Orchid Society of Toowoomba**, P.O. Box 2141,Toowoomba 4350. Meetings 7.30pm, 1st Fri. each month. Luthern Church Hall, Cnr. West and Alderly Sts, Toowoomba.

VICTORIA

- **ANOS Geelong**, Unit2, 2 Elizabeth St., Belmont 3216. ☎(03) 5243-4286. Meetings 8pm, 2nd Wed. each month. Uniting Church Hall, Moorabool St., South Geelong.
- **ANOS Victoria**, P.O. Box 354, Glen Waverley 3150. ☎(03) 9874-5343. Meetings 8pm, 1st Fri. each month. Demonstration Hall, Burnley Horticultural College, Swan St., Burnley.
- **ANOS Melbourne Suburbs Group**, PO Box 239 Mt Evelyn Vic. 3796. ☎(03) 59622758. Meetings held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Montrose Primary School, Leith Rd., Montrose 3765 (Melways 52 D7)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

- **Native Orchid Society of South Australia**, P.O. Box 565, Unley 5061. ☎(08) 8356-7356. Meetings 8pm, 4th Tue. each month. St. Matthews Hall, 67 Bridge St., Kensington.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- **ANOS Western Australia**, 95A Ewen St., Scarborough 6019. ☎(08) 9341-6709. Meetings 8pm, 2nd Mon. each month. Wilson Community Hall, Braibrise Rd., Wilson.

NEW ZEALAND

- **ANOS New Zealand**, Margaret Phair, 21 Paparoa Rd, Howick, Auckland, New Zealand.
- **New Zealand Native Orchid Group**, 22 Orchard St., Wadestown, Wellington, New Zealand.

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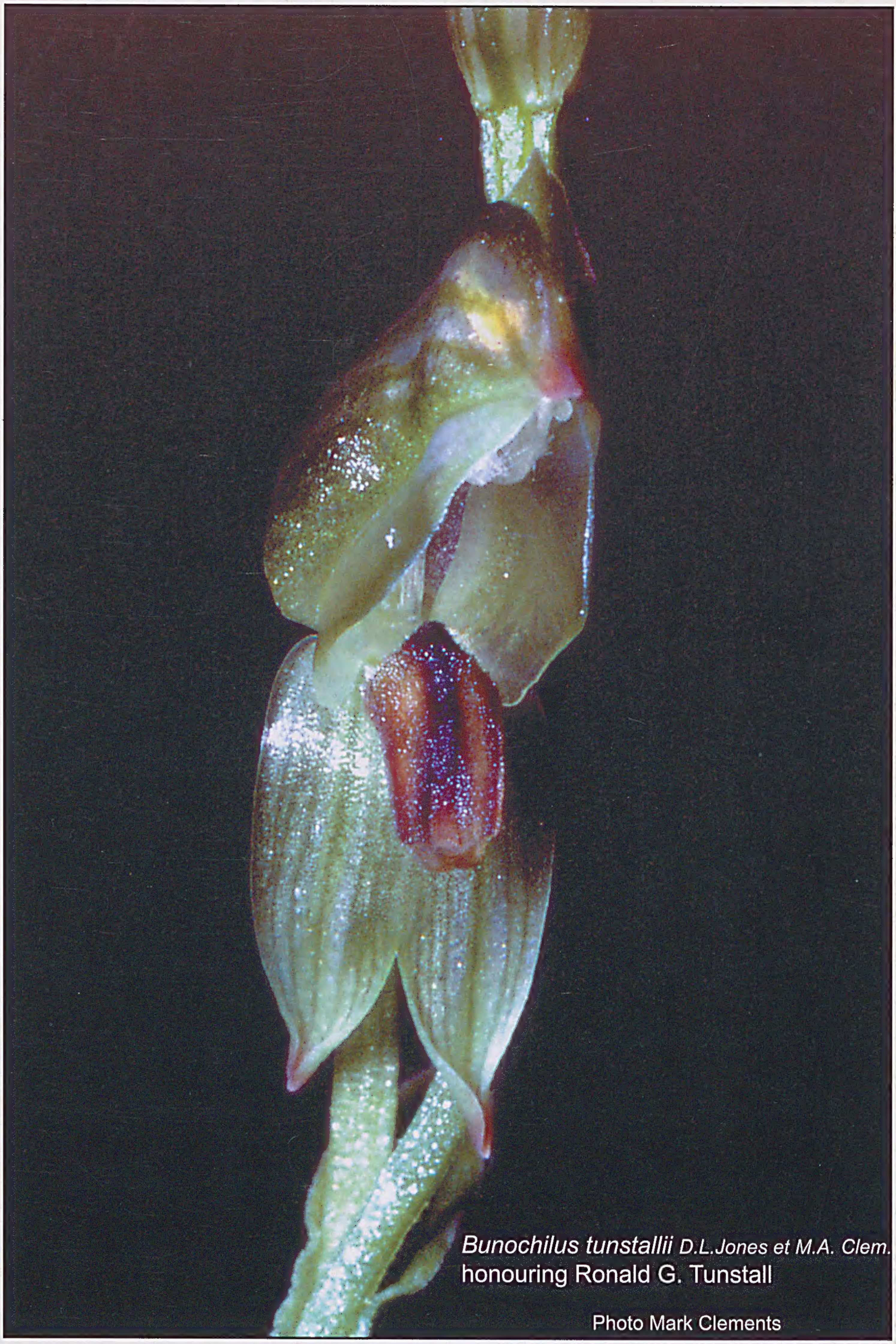

Bunochilus tunstallii *D.L.Jones et M.A. Clem.*
honouring Ronald G. Tunstall

Photo Mark Clements